

About the Security Summit



Key Facts

- Security Summit consists of IRS, state tax agencies and the tax community, including tax preparation firms, software developers, payroll and tax financial product processors, tax professional organizations and financial institutions.
- Total membership: 42 state agencies and 20 industry officials in addition to the IRS.
- Security Summit members are organized into six work groups, each tasked with addressing an area of need and each with a co-lead from the IRS, states and industry.
- In the first two years, Summit safeguards resulted in a 57% decline in confirmed identity theft returns, and a 65% decline in the number of taxpayers reporting themselves as victims.
- An annual highlight is the National Tax Security Awareness Week in late fall to raise public awareness.
- An outgrowth of the Summit collaboration is the Identity Theft Tax Refund Fraud Information Sharing and Analysis Center. ISAC is tasked with centralizing, standardizing, and enhancing data compilation and analysis to facilitate sharing actionable data and information. It serves as the Neighborhood Watch, alerting ISAC members to emerging schemes.
- For more information, visit www.irs.gov/securitysummit

Background - In March 2015, the IRS convened an unprecedented coalition of state tax agencies and the private-sector tax industry officials to begin a difficult task – fighting back against emerging criminal syndicates, based here and overseas, that were filing fraudulent returns for refunds. These new cyber gangs were highly organized, highly sophisticated and well-funded. Working in teams, Security Summit partners put in place a series of safeguards starting with the 2016 filing season. The work to counter evolving criminal tactics is ongoing.

Organization – Six Work Groups

- **Authentication Work Group:** Tasked with identifying ways to strengthening authentication practices, including new ways to validate taxpayers and return information.
- **Financial Services Work Group:** Tasked with examining ways to prevent criminals from potentially accessing tax-time financial products, deposit accounts, and pre-paid debit cards.
- **Information Sharing Work Group:** Tasked with identifying opportunities to improve the collective capabilities for detecting and preventing Identity theft tax refund fraud.
- **Strategic Threat Assessment and Response (STAR) Work Group:** Tasked with taking a holistic look at the entire tax ecosystem, identifying points of vulnerability (threats/risks), developing a strategy to mitigate or prevent threats.
- **Communication and Taxpayer Awareness Work Group:** Tasked with increasing awareness among individuals, businesses and tax professionals on the need to protect sensitive tax and financial information.
- **Tax Professional Work Group:** Tasked with examining how new requirements will affect tax preparers who use professional software and how preparers can help prevent identity theft tax refund fraud.

Meetings - The Security Summit generally convenes prior to the filing season. Throughout the year the Security Summit team co-leads meet monthly and face to face generally before and after filing season. The Security Summit workgroup meetings schedule, some weekly and some monthly, depending on the issues and time of the year.

Security Summit Membership

States	Industry	Endorsing Organizations
Alabama	Drake Enterprises, Ltd.	Federation of Tax Administrators
Arizona	ezTax Return.com, LLC	Council for Electronic Revenue
Arkansas	FileYourTaxes.com	Communication Advancement
California	Fort Knox Financial Services	(CERCA)
Colorado	Corporation	American Coalition for Taxpayer
Connecticut	FreeTaxReturns.com	Rights (ACTR)
Delaware	H&R Block	Free File Inc
District of Columbia	Intuit, Inc.	National Association of
Georgia	Jackson Hewitt, Inc.	Computerized Tax Processors
Hawaii	Liberty Tax, Inc.	(NACTP)
Idaho	On-Line Taxes, Inc.	Network Branded Prepaid Card
Illinois	CrossLink Professional Tax	Association (NBPCA)
Indiana	Solutions, LLC	American Payroll Association
Iowa	Republic Bank & Trust	(APA)
Kansas	Company	National Society of Tax
Kentucky	River City Bank	Professionals (NSTP)
Louisiana	Santa Barbara Tax Products	
Maine	Group, LLC	
Maryland	TaxACT	
Massachusetts	TaxHawk Inc	
Michigan	TaxSlayer, LLC	
Mississippi	Thomson Reuters	
Missouri	Wolters Kluwer Tax & Acct	
Montana	1040NOW, Inc	
Nebraska		
New Hampshire		
New Jersey		
New Mexico		
New York		
North Carolina		
North Dakota		
Ohio		
Oklahoma		
Oregon		
Pennsylvania		
Rhode Island		
South Carolina		
Utah		
Vermont		
Virginia		
West Virginia		
Wisconsin		