Sample article for organizations to use to reach customers (616 word count)

Post the following article on your websites and/or use in other communication vehicles to help guard against fake emails purporting to contain an IRS tax bill.

IRS and Security Summit partners warn of fake tax bills

The IRS and its Security Summit partners want you to be on guard against fake emails claiming to contain an IRS tax bill related to the Affordable Care Act.

The IRS received numerous reports around the country of scammers sending a fraudulent version of CP2000 notices for tax year 2015. The CP2000 is a notice commonly mailed to you through the United States Postal Service. It is never sent as part of an email to you.

Generally, the scam involves an email that includes the fake CP2000 as an attachment. The issue was reported to the Treasury Inspector General for Tax Administration for investigation.

Here's what you should know about these fake notices:

- These notices are sent electronically, even though the IRS does not initiate contact with you by email or through social media platforms;
- The CP2000 notices appear to be issued from an Austin, Texas, address;
- The underreported issue is related to the Affordable Care Act requesting information regarding 2014 coverage;
- The payment voucher lists the letter number as 105C.

The fraudulent CP2000 notice included a payment request that taxpayers mail a check made out to "I.R.S." to the "Austin Processing Center" at a Post Office Box address. This is in addition to a "payment" link within the email itself.

IRS impersonation scams take many forms: threatening telephone calls, phishing emails and demanding letters. You should always beware of any unsolicited email claiming to be from the IRS or any unknown source. You should never open an attachment or click on a link within an email sent by sources you do not know. Learn more at Reporting Phishing and Online Scams.

If you receive this scam email, you should forward it to phishing@irs.gov, and then delete it from your email account. To determine if a CP2000 notice you received in the mail is real, see the Understanding Your CP2000 Notice, which includes an image of a real notice. You can also view explanations and images of common correspondence on IRS.gov at Understanding Your IRS Notice or Letter.

A CP2000 is generated by the IRS Automated Underreporter Program when income reported from third-party sources such as an employer does not match the income

reported on the tax return. It provides extensive instructions to you about what to do if you agree or disagree that additional tax is owed.

It also requests that a check be made out to “United States Treasury” if you agree additional tax is owed. Or, if you are unable to pay, it provides instructions for payment options such as installment payments.

The IRS and its Security Summit partners — the state tax agencies and the private-sector tax industry — are conducting a campaign to raise awareness among taxpayer and tax professionals about increasing their security and becoming familiar with various tax-related scams. Learn more at Taxes. Security. Together. or Protect Your Clients; Protect Yourself.

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NOTE TO EDITOR: Below are links to help taxpayers find the information they need.

IRS.gov

- IRS Special Edition Tax Tip 2016-13 — Beware of Fake IRS Tax Bill Notices
- IRS Taxes. Security. Together. Tax Tip Number 1 — IRS, Partners Offer Tips to Protect Data from Online Threats
- IRS Taxes. Security. Together. Tax Tip Number 2 — IRS, Partners Suggest Tips for Safe Holiday Online Shopping

On Twitter? Send this Tweet:

The #IRS is not calling to threaten arrest or a lawsuit. No random emails either. http://go.usa.gov/x46HT #TAXSCAM #DONTFALLFORIT