

# New Email Scam Targets Tax Professionals

The Internal Revenue Service issued a warning to tax professionals to beware of a new two-stage email scam from cybercriminals who are posing as clients soliciting tax services.



## TARGET: ACCOUNTING AND TAX PREPARATION FIRMS

*You could be the next target especially during the upcoming tax season.*



## REASON:

To collect sensitive information that can enable criminals to prepare fraudulent tax returns.

## 2 STAGES TO THE SCAM

### STAGE 1 SOLICITATION



### EMAIL SENT FROM FRAUDSTER

"I need a preparer to file my taxes."

If the tax preparer responds, Stage 2 goes into effect.

*Phishing emails may seem to come from a legitimate sender because they too have been victimized by cybercriminals who have taken over their accounts to send phishing emails.*

### STAGE 2 THE BAD LINK



### FRAUDSTER SENDS A LINK

The link will either be embedded in the email or has an attachment with the link embedded.

If the link is clicked, the fraudster will begin to gather email addresses, passwords and other information.



## HOW TO PROTECT YOURSELF

Never click on a link or open an attachment from an unknown sender.

*Create internal policies or seek recommendations from security experts about how to deal with unsolicited emails seeking services.*