



Information Release

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NATP, IRS and Security Summit Partners Warn Tax Preparers of Data Theft Risks; Launch New Public Awareness Campaign

(APPLETON, WI, July 6, 2016) – The National Association of Tax Professionals (NATP) today joined the IRS and other industry leaders with a warning to tax preparers that they are popular targets for cybercriminals and should take action to protect their clients from data theft.

The IRS posted new information to help tax professionals get started with safeguards to protect clients' data. It's the first in a series of regular fact sheets and tips on security, scams and identity theft prevention measures aimed at tax professionals. The "[Protect Your Clients; Protect Yourself](#)" campaign, outlined in [Publication 4557](#), will run through the start of the 2017 filing season.

NATP Government Relations Liaison, Larry Gray, CPA, represents the association on the IRS Commissioner's Security Summit, a team created from the IRS, state agencies and the private-sector tax industry working to safeguard taxpayers from tax-related identity theft.

"In June, the Security Summit released an update on its identity theft initiatives for 2017," explained Gray. "We know that the identity thieves are becoming more sophisticated, so we are developing ways to attack the risks on all fronts; from authentication to information sharing to public and practitioner awareness."

Preparers are encouraged to connect with NATP to stay informed on updates related to identity theft and other important information that affects their practices and clients. Join the [NATP mailing list](#), follow us on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#) for future updates.

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About NATP

NATP is the largest organization dedicated 100% to tax professionals and their success. NATP members work at offices that assist over 8 million people worldwide with tax preparation and planning. Formed in 1979, NATP's member base has grown to almost 23,000 and includes individual tax preparers, enrolled agents, certified public accounts, accountants, attorneys and financial planners. The national headquarters, located in Appleton, Wisconsin, employs over 50 professionals. For more information on the organization, visit natptax.com.