

February, 2009



National ID Recovery, LLC

Tax Season Scams Are Here...

Tax season is upon us and as always, there are potential scams that consumers should be aware of during this time. The most common of these is “phishing”. Phishing is the act of sending an e-mail to a user falsely claiming to be an established legitimate enterprise in an attempt to scam the user into giving up private information that will be used for identity theft. During tax season, Phishers tend to pose as Internal Revenue Service (IRS) employees and send consumers e-mails seeking personal information claiming it’s for the purpose of processing their tax refunds. These e-mails generally appear to be quite real using such language as “Refund Notice” in the subject lines. Please do not be fooled by this scam. The IRS does not send e-mails asking for personal information. If you would like to check the status of your refund, you can visit the IRS website at www.irs.gov and click on “Where’s My Refund”.

Another prevalent scam which often surfaces during tax season is an e-mail campaign from counterfeit charities seeking contributions. I know I’ve warned you of fraudulent charities before, but it never hurts to be reminded. These fake “charities” claim your contribution will reduce your tax liability. Always research a charity before you give them your money and never respond to an e-mail solicitation for money. Visit the Better Businesses Bureau’s

charity research page at www.bbb.org before donating to ensure that your money is truly being used for good.

Security refund scams are also common. They are based on offers of a social security tax refund, which doesn’t exist. In this scheme, the criminal tries to get you to send them a percentage of your anticipated refund up front.

Each year, the IRS puts out what they call the “Dirty Dozen”, which is a list of the twelve most blatant scams affecting American taxpayers. This year, the “Dirty Dozen” highlights five new scams the IRS auditors and criminal investigators have uncovered. At the top of the list are fraudulent refunds being claimed in connection with the special Telephone Excise Tax Refund, which is available to most taxpayers this season. In some cases, taxpayers are trying to request a refund of the entire amount of their phone bill instead of the three-percent tax on long-distance and bundled service to which they are entitled. To see the rest of the “Dirty Dozen” for this year, check out the IRS website and search for “Dirty Dozen 2009”.

Volume 2 Issue 15

In This Issue You Will Learn About:

- > Tax Season Scams
- > NIS: My Experiences
- > Data Breaches



Inside this issue:

Tax Season Scams 1

NIS: My Experiences 2

Data Breaches 3

**My Experience With National ID Recovery/National Identity Solutions
By: H. Andy Patterson, LCSW**

Having known the CEO of National Identity Solutions since we were grade school best friends who played basketball on a vacant lot in our neighborhood in the small rural South Georgia home town we grew up in, and the friendship continuing through our college years as well as serving together in the US Army, it is no wonder that I turned to him and his company a couple of years ago when my identity was stolen. I was especially embarrassed to find myself in need of his services since I knew that the victims of identity theft are often described by the media as the less educated, less alert individuals who easily fall prey to the scams that are ever present in today's technological world. I felt I certainly did not meet this profile as I have three Master's degrees, am a licensed clinical social worker for the state of Georgia as well as a college instructor.

Putting my embarrassment aside I did contact NIS as the reputation of this company far exceeded any others I had learned about while researching a solution to my dilemma. I was greatly pleased and excessively relieved at the success the company had in quickly recovering my identity and alleviating my anxieties.

Since I did not match the profile of the "typical" victim, National Identity Solutions was interested in my reactions and feelings regarding the theft of my identity, some of the fears I had experienced, how I coped with all of the emotions brought on by this experience, and how I felt about the ultimate outcome of the recovery efforts of the company.

I feel sure that many of the reactions I had upon the discovery of the compromising situation I was in due to the theft were typical in that I had the same grave concerns of many about the damages that could be done not only to my finances but also to my

reputation. I knew that once my identity was stolen the thief could gain access to all aspects of my life from my college transcripts to my medical records, my military career to my work history, my credit cards to my bank accounts and most every other facet of my life that could be imagined. My fears of the damages that could be wrought upon my lifestyle and future were unimaginable as I had read time and again of the people whose lives were devastated by identity thieves. I had spent over 30 years building my personal and professional reputation and now was about to see all of that hard work and dedication go down the drain.

After the initial shock of finding myself in this rather compromising situation and admitting that yes it had happened to even me, I settled down and began sorting through the possible paths I could take to fix my problem. Obviously my anxiety level was extremely high. However I had to compose myself and view my circumstances objectively, and above all, not panic and act irrationally. I thought, I worried, I prayed and after a few sleepless nights, I realized the only solution to the catastrophe was to seek professional help. It was at this time that I contacted National Identity Solutions. The stress level immeasurably decreased after my initial contact with the company as I was confident they were more than capable of solving my problems which all began when I fell for an all too common phishing scam.

Having experienced the theft of my identity, dealt with the anxiety and fear of the extent of the potential damage done to my personal and financial life as well as having felt the exhilaration when NIS located the source of my problem, stopped the illegal use of my information and essentially recovered

my life and then describing my feelings throughout this experience, I was invited to join the staff of National Identity Solutions as a consultant.

I am therefore now available to our clients to address any concerns dealing emotionally or psychologically with the anxieties brought on by the theft of ones identity. I will not only submit articles addressing methods of coping with the stresses brought on by the loss of identity but also discussing signs to be on guard for that are alerts of potential dangers.

I welcome your questions, comments, or concerns and look forward to assisting you, our clients, with any emotional issues brought on by the unfortunate circumstances which perpetuated the need for National Identity Solutions to become a vital segment of my life.



H. Andy Patterson, LCSW



"...I was confident they were more than capable of solving my problems..."

Published Data Security Breaches Reported for 2008

There have been approximately 641 Published Data Breaches in 2008 potentially exposing more than 35.5 million individuals to identity theft. In the first month of 2009 we may have already eclipsed that number.

Date	Company	Type of Breach	Citizens Exposed
12/31/08	Ohio State University	Web	18,000
01/05/09	Innodata Isogen, Inc.	Stolen Laptop	141
01/05/09	United States Library of Congress	Fraud Se	10
01/09/09	HMP Preston	Lost Drive	6,360
01/10/09	Letterkenny General Hospital	Disposal Document	16
01/10/09	Kanagawa Prefectural Zama Senior High School	Web	110,000
01/11/09	University of Rochester	Hack	450
01/12/09	Columbus City Schools	Snail Mail	800
01/12/09	Continental Airlines	Stolen Laptop	230
01/13/09	Blue Ridge Community Action	Lost Drive	300
01/13/09	University of Oregon Youth Transition Program	Stolen Laptop	2,000
01/16/09	Smokers Choice	Fraud Se	300
01/16/09	Southwestern Oregon Community College	Stolen Laptop	200
01/20/09	Kanawha-Sharleston Health Department	Fraud Se	11,000
01/09	Heartland Payment Systems	Computer	Unknown