

# Online Security

## IRS Warns of New Phishing Scams

During the months of July and August 2007 the IRS warned taxpayers of two new phishing scams. Phishing scams are e-mails that appear to be sent by institutions that people use or trust in order to solicit personal information that can then be used by identity thieves.

The first scam, that was first reported in July, was an e-mail that appears to come from the IRS and advises taxpayers they can receive \$80.00 by filling out an online customer satisfaction survey. If you receive this e-mail, ignore this solicitation and do not provide any information.

The second, which began to appear in August, is a "Tax-Avoidance Investigation" e-mail claiming to come from the IRS "Fraud Department." The recipient, accused of committing fraud, is asked to complete an "investigation form" through a link contained in the e-mail. Clicking on the link may activate a Trojan Horse, a computer virus. Do not click on the link or open the attachment. Remember, the IRS (nor any other government, financial, or corporate institution) does not send unsolicited e-mails or ask for detailed personal and financial information. They will not ask taxpayers for PIN numbers, passwords, or secret access information for your credit card, bank, or other financial accounts!

*posted September 13, 2007*