

Print This Page

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IDENTITY THEFT

# Scammers sending phony TurboTax emails

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People are receiving fake emails purporting to be from TurboTax, and the company is warning people not to respond. They're from scammers.

Last year, and in previous years, criminals used Turbo-Tax to file returns ahead of legitimate taxpayers. In some cases, they simply opened another account in the victim's name and were not caught by TurboTax. The result was an identity theft nightmare for the victims, whose refunds were delayed.

The fake emails have the title "TurboTax not working for days now..." If you receive one, Intuit, the company that owns TurboTax, advises:

- Do not open the attachment in the email.
- Send a copy of the email to spoof@intuit.com.
- Do not forward the email to anyone else.
- Delete the email.

On the Internet, "phishing" refers to criminal activity that attempts to fraudulently obtain sensitive information. Here's what you can do to protect yourself from phishing:

- If you suspect you have received a phishing email from Intuit, forward it immediately to spoof@intuit.com. The company will look into each reported instance.

- Make sure you subscribe to an anti-virus software and keep it up to date.

- Make sure you have updated your Web browser to one that includes anti-phishing security features, such as Internet Explorer 7 or Firefox version 3 or higher.

- Keep up to date on the latest releases and patches for your operating systems and critical programs. These are frequently security-related.

- Do not respond to emails asking for account, password, banking or credit-card information.

- Do not open an attachment that claims to be a software update. The company will not send any software updates via email.

- Do not respond to text messages or voice mails that ask you to call a number and enter your account number and PIN.

- Make sure you have passwords on your computer and your payroll files. [ssalisbury@pbpost.com](mailto:ssalisbury@pbpost.com)

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Consumers are receiving fake emails purporting to be from TurboTax, and the parent company is warning people not to respond. **CONTRIBUTED**