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**IRS Tax Refund Phishing Scam Is Back**

*Monday, 10 April 2006 12:34 EST*

It's that time of the year again! IRS Tax phishing scammers are back with a vengeance as the April 17 tax filing deadline in US is nearing. Experts from MicroWorld Technologies inform that the phishing scam that originated three years ago has already claimed a few thousand victims this year too.

Phishing is the method of online fraud using fake emails that spoof reputed banks, credit card companies, online stores, search engines and like in this one, even the Internal Revenue Service.

You get an email that look perfectly authentic, claiming to be sent by the Tax department asking you to click on a link. What opens up is the purported website of the department with a form where in you are asked to fill your personal information to help you claim your tax refund. Once you click the submit button after the filling in the information, you have submitted your confidential financial information in the hands of online thugs!

Lured by lucre, the unsuspecting victim falls prey to the vicious design. Internal Revenue Service has issued yet another warning to American tax payers to stay away from such deceitful mails.

“MicroWorld has been in the forefront of fighting the phishing menace over the last few years. We have exposed a large number of such scams in a timely manner to safeguard computer users world wide. Besides, our solutions eScan and MailScan come with advanced technology to thwart spamming and phishing,” says Govind Rammurthy, CEO, MicroWorld Technologies.

Researchers from MicroWorld Technologies have been closely studying the evolution of phishing malice. Phishers are working with smarter and newer social engineering methods like ‘Scare’ and ‘Shock’ to prompt users to open mails and fall in line. To add to the sophistication, phishers are even using Keyloggers and Trojans to employ a multi-layered strategy in Identity Theft. The recent World Cup Ticket Phishing Scam is a fine instance of such developments.

“Phishers seem to swear by the maxim ‘by hook or by crook’. Not only them, but even virus writers are eyeing big moolah using Worms, Trojans, Rootkits and Keyloggers,” says Govind Rammurthy. “The safest bet to protect your information is to have a Proactive, Real Time Security Solution that works round the clock to safeguard your confidential data. The need is for a comprehensive solution, as online criminals today work as a well connected crime syndicate! ”

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