

Be Alert to Fake IRS Phishing Email

It is always the season for phishing email, even more so during the heightened online activity of the holidays.

What's Happening?

Recently, the Raymond James Information Security department identified a spike in phishing email scams targeting Raymond James associates' email addresses.

The most recent emails appear to come from the United States Internal Revenue Service (IRS) and state that a tax payment submitted by the recipient was rejected.

Note: The IRS assures consumers that the agency *does not* communicate payment information through email.

What's the Harm?

The fake email contains links to sites, which if you click, will attempt to download malicious software (malware) that infects the recipient's computer.

According to the [IRS](#) website, "[t]he malware is designed to send back to the scammer personal information and financial information already contained on the taxpayer's computer or obtained through capturing keystrokes. The scammer uses this personal and financial information to commit identity theft."

What to Do

As a matter of course, when faced with possible fake email:

- Do not ever click links embedded in emails from an unknown or unexpected sender.
- If you suspect you have received spam or a phishing email, please contact us so that we can notify our Information Security and Operational Risk & Privacy departments.