NAPLES COMPUTERS HOW-TO · SECURITY & SAFETY

IRS and Tax-Season Impostor Scams

Every year, scammers pose as the IRS, by phone, email, and text, to pressure people into paying money they don't owe or handing over their Social Security number. This guide covers how the scam works, what the real IRS will and won't do, how to check whether a notice is real, and how to report it. (Names and phone numbers shown are made-up examples.)

How the scam works

It can arrive as a threatening call, a phishing email, or a text about your refund.

The threatening call
A caller claims you owe back taxes and must pay immediately, or face arrest.

Phishing email or text
A message about your refund or W-2 links to a fake site asking for your Social Security number.

Payment and pressure
They ask for a gift card, wire transfer, or cryptocurrency, right now, before you can think it over.

IRS and tax-season impostor scams: the warning signs

SCAM ALERT

Is that really the IRS calling?

A caller threatening arrest over back taxes, demanding payment right now, is not how the IRS works.

WHAT TO DO
We're Naples Computers, and we've helped Naples families spot these calls since 1993.



WARNING SIGN

1 What the real IRS won't do on a call

Caller ID can show any name or number, even the words IRS Tax Division. That proves nothing.

WHAT TO DO

The IRS will not demand payment by gift card, prepaid card, wire transfer, or cryptocurrency, and won't threaten to send police to arrest you.



Caller ID can be faked

WARNING SIGN

2 The IRS contacts you by mail first

A real tax issue normally shows up as a letter, before any phone call or visit, not out of nowhere.

WHAT TO DO

No letter on file, and no account showing a balance at irs.gov? Treat the call as a scam.



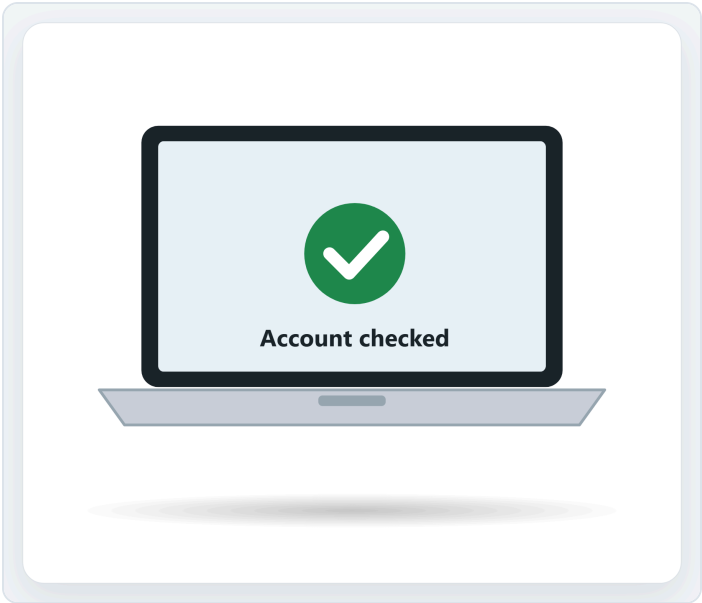
VERIFY IT

3 How to check what's real

Check your actual account at irs.gov, or call the IRS directly at 1-800-829-1040.

WHAT TO DO

Use a number you look up yourself, never one a caller gives you.



If they ask you to pay

- [ ] Gift cards, wire transfers, or crypto
  No real IRS bill is ever paid this way
- [ ] A link in a text or email
  Don't click it, go to irs.gov yourself instead
- [ ] Urgent threats and pressure
  Hang up, and verify before you do anything else

Report it, and warn others

- [ ] phishing@irs.gov
  Forward a suspicious tax email or text here
- [ ] TIGTA: 1-800-366-4484
  Report an IRS impersonation phone call
- [ ] ReportFraud.ftc.gov
  File a report with the Federal Trade Commission
- [ ] Already shared info or paid?
  Call Naples Computers, we'll help you sort out next steps

Recap: IRS and tax-season scams

- [ ] The IRS mails you first, before any call or visit
- [ ] No gift cards, wire transfers, or crypto, ever
- [ ] Check irs.gov or call 1-800-829-1040 yourself
- [ ] Report phishing to phishing@irs.gov, scam calls to TIGTA
- [ ] Not sure? Call Naples Computers

The IRS normally contacts you by mail first, before any phone call or visit, and will never demand payment by gift card, wire transfer, or cryptocurrency. If you're not sure a call or email is real, check your account at irs.gov or call 1-800-829-1040 yourself, using a number you look up, not one a caller gives you.



Think a tax call or email might be a scam?

Call 239-513-1960

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