



# FEDERATION OF AMERICAN CONSUMERS AND TRAVELERS - NEWS RELEASE -

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## **Warnings Issued About Scams Which Use the IRS Name or Logo**

EDWARDSVILL, IL, September 3, 2008 - The Internal Revenue Service has issued a new consumer warning on the fraudulent use of the IRS name or logo by Internet scamsters. The scamsters' intent is to gain access to consumers' financial information in order to steal their identity and assets.

The practice is commonly referred to as "phishing."

This IRS warning is being reported by the Federation of American Consumers and Travelers ([FACT](#)) as part of its "hotline" service to its members. FACT is a not-for-profit association which was founded in 1984 and which provides a variety of benefits -- ranging from [medical insurance](#) and [dental care discounts](#) to [prescription drug savings](#) and [timely consumer information](#) -- for more than 1 million Americans.

"Basically," says FACT managing director Vicki Rolens, "phishing is a scam whereby someone sends fraudulent e-mail messages to trick the recipients into revealing personal and financial information. This information is then used to steal the recipients' identity."

The scams reported by the IRS involve phony e-mails which claim to come from the IRS and which lure the victims into the scam by telling them that they are due a tax refund.

Rolens adds: "Fortunately, there IS something citizens can do to protect themselves and to prevent these schemes from being perpetuated."

She recommends that any e-mail which claims to come from the IRS be forwarded immediately to a new IRS mailbox: [phishing@irs.gov](mailto:phishing@irs.gov). The IRS will then be able to use the suspicious e-mail's URLs and links to trace the hosting Web site and take appropriate action.

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Questions may be directed to FACT by sending an e-mail to [cservice@usafact.org](mailto:cservice@usafact.org). More information on the Federation of American Consumers and Travelers may be found in the *Encyclopedia of Associations*, and by visiting the association's web site ([www.usafact.org](http://www.usafact.org)). [The organization was formed](#) under the not-for-profit corporation laws of the District of Columbia in 1984. Its administrative office is located at 318 Hillsboro Avenue, Edwardsville, IL 62025.