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It's That Time of The Year Again!

It's that time of year again! Another tax season is here and along with that comes prime opportunities for identity theft.

The Internal Revenue Service recently released their 2015 "Dirty Dozen" list of tax scams, and phishing scams once again made the top of the list. The IRS warns tax professionals to be on guard against fake emails that request updated personal or professional information. This year, one of the more popular scams involve asking tax professionals to update their IRS e-services portal information and Electronic Filing Identification Numbers (EFINs).

The IRS is also warning tax filers of the other savvy ways criminals try and take advantage. One way is through correspondence. Pay close attention to any communications received from IRS, particularly since the IRS does not communicate via email and most definitely would not request personal financial information using this method. The IRS also does NOT communicate via text messages or through social media channels.

Identity thieves will go to any lengths to get unwitting victims to give up their Social Security number, credit card numbers, bank account numbers or any other valuable piece of information that can help them steal an identity. Do NOT take the bait. If you get an unsolicited email that claims to be from the IRS or a related agency, such as the Electronic Federal Tax Payment System (EFTPS), **don't reply, don't open any attachments and don't click on any links.** Doing so can enable scammers to collect your personal information or infect your computer with malicious code. If you receive an unsolicited email that says it is from the IRS, the Electronic Federal Tax Payment System (EFTPS), or a similar agency, report it to phishing@irs.gov.

The IRS monitors identity theft and other types of fraud. The organization says it has added and strengthened protections in its processing systems this filing season. **However, you must still remain vigilant and aware of the subtle threats that lurk in the digital world as e tax filing becomes the new norm.**

To see a full list of the Internal Revenue Services of "2015 Dirty Dozen" visit http://www.irs.gov/uac/Newsroom/IRS-Completes-the-Dirty-Dozen-Tax-Scams-for-2015.

Inside this issue:

Microsoft Support for Windows Server 2003 Ends in 117 days!

Microsoft will end support for Windows Server 2003 on July 14, 2015. This means that those still using that operating system will no longer receive crucial security patches that help protect against viruses, spyware and malicious software. Users may also encounter problems with software and hardware compatibility since new software applications and hardware devices may not be built for Windows Server 2003. Computers using the old software will still work, however, the risk of viruses and other malicious attacks increases exponentially and could result in significant loss of data, business assets, and confidential documents.

Don't wait until the last minute to make changes. July 14, 2015 will be here sooner than you think!

AaSys can help you every step of the way. Please contact your Account Manager today. for more information !

Microsoft Windows 7 Patch Issues

Last week, it was discovered that there was a problem with the patch KB3033929 causing reboot issues. The problem was first brought to light by Information Security blogger Brian Krebs. Krebs also reported seeing the issue listed across multiple Microsoft Windows help and support forums. Those being most affected are those users with dual booting systems. According to Krebs, the patch doesn't fix any particularly alarming vulnerabilities, so users who have yet to update to KB3033929 should avoid installing the update until Microsoft issues another fix. Microsoft tried to release the same update in October 2014 under a different code but was retracted because of similar issues. ***AaSys has removed this patch from deployment until Microsoft fixes the issue.***

Back By Popular Demand! ISO Peer Group Meetings!

Thank you to all who attended the West Virginia, Tennessee and Mississippi AaSys ISO Peer Group meeting and making it a great success. We look forward to seeing you at the Alabama meetings later this month!

These meetings will address topics such as "New FFIEC Technology Examination Requirements: Appendix J, Strengthening the Resilience of Outsourced Technology Service Providers " and "How the NIST Cybersecurity Framework Can Be Used By Financial Institutions."

The open discussions at the end of the meeting will allow you to ask questions and share your experiences with your peers. This is also a great opportunity to network with others throughout the state to discuss some of the most critical issues facing the financial services industry today.

Be sure to mark your calendars! Come join us as we share knowledge about the ever changing IT industry. Check out the details below and we look forward to seeing you there!

Alabama
Atmore & Talladega
Topic: New FFIEC Technology Examination Requirements: Appendix J, Strengthening the Resilience of Outsourced Technology Service Providers

Date: Thursday, March 19, 2015
Time: 10:30 AM – 2:30 PM EST
and Thursday March 26, 2015

Location:200 East Nashville Ave. Atmore, AL 36502 and 120 North Street East Talladega, AL 35160

The ROC Report Has a New Look!

AaSys has made some new improvements to our ROC (Remote Operations Report) reports! The new reports have a clean, easy look that is easier on the eye! And another bonus feature: a much faster download speed making it more convenient for you to retrieve!