



# Prevention TIPS

**To: All Members**

**From: Steve Jones; Director, Product Support and Training**

**Date: October 25, 2010**

**Re: Phishing Alert - EFTPS Tax Payments**

The following bulletin was initially sent by EastPay:

## **Phishing Alert:**

Emails claiming to be from EFTPS on the rise

Security researchers warn that a Zeus distribution campaign producing emails about failed electronic tax payments has significantly increased. The "from" field in these emails is spoofed to appear as if it is originating from "EFTPS Tax Payment," and the email tells users that their tax payment submitted through the Electronic Federal Tax Payment System (EFTPS) has failed. The message claims the payment failed with an R21 return reason code, and provides a link to obtain additional information. The malware installed as a result of clicking on the link is commonly used by fraudsters to steal online banking credentials, credit card details, and other sensitive information.

If you receive one of these phishing emails, **DO NOT CLICK ON THE LINK!** You may wish to educate your customers and members about this particular exploitation and about phishing scams in general. The safest rule is to never follow web links in unsolicited e-mails from unknown parties or from parties with whom you do not normally communicate, or that appear to be known but are suspicious or otherwise unusual.

If malicious code is detected or suspected on a computer, consult with a computer security or anti-virus specialist to remove malicious code or re-install a clean image of the computer system. Always use anti-virus software and ensure that the virus signatures are automatically updated.

Ensure that the computer operating systems and common software applications security patches are installed and current.

Be alert for different variations of fraudulent e-mails.

**If you have questions please contact Steve Jones, Director of Product Support and Training at 800-342-0203 ext. 6870.**