



Issued 2/26/18

IRS Warns of Spike in W-2 Phishing Emails

The IRS Online Fraud Detection & Prevention Center (OFDP), which monitors for IRS-related phishing attacks, said it has detected an increase in compromised emails, starting in January 2017. It says cybercriminals are aiming for mass data theft in addition to targeting individual taxpayers. Their most common tactic is impersonating an executive with a compromised email, which is sent to a human resource professional within the same business to request W-2 information. OFDP officials say this is one of several new variations of phishing campaigns targeting W-2 data, a sign of criminals' growing interest in sensitive tax information.