

## **IRS Definition**

**Phishing** : Scam artists use phishing to trick unsuspecting victims into revealing personal or financial information. Scams take the form of e-mails, phony websites or phone calls that offer a fictitious refund or threaten an audit or investigation to lure victims into revealing personal information. The IRS never initiates unsolicited e-mail contact with taxpayers about their tax issues. Phishers use the information to steal the victim's identity, access their bank accounts and credit cards or apply for loans. Please forward suspicious scams to the IRS at [phishing@irs.gov](mailto:phishing@irs.gov). You can also visit [www.irs.gov](http://www.irs.gov), keyword phishing, for additional information.

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