

6

Ways Fraud Occurs & How to Fight it

Financial scams and tax fraud keep showing up year after year, but you can armor up to be a tough target. How exactly do you manage that, though?

Let's look at six popular scams to see how services like **CardValet** can help.

1

Online Phishing

Phishing scammers try to steal any sort of personal information through email posing as the IRS, but the IRS *never* initiates contact with taxpayers by email.



2



Phone Scams

The IRS never makes first contact by phone call, so take the air out of the screamers by hanging up and calling the IRS at (800) 829-1040. If there really is an issue, the IRS employees will be able to help.

3

Identity Theft

You can never be too careful about protecting personally identifiable information (PII) such as Social Security numbers, tax ID numbers, and key tax information. Be cautious about where you enter this information online.



4



Tax Preparer Fraud

Fraudsters may pose as tax preparers to get your information.

Wherever you file your taxes, you should do your research before filing to make sure you're giving your personal information to a credible, responsible party.

5

Fake Charities

You can always double-check a charity by going to the IRS's list of 501(c)(3) qualified charities on IRS.gov and looking for the organization before donating.



6

Inflated Refund Scam

First, the fraudster gets your information and files your tax return, adding false credits and deductions to inflate your tax refund. The IRS issues a refund check and you receive the inflated refund. Then, the fraudster poses as the IRS, telling you that you received too much refund money, and demands the excess.

You comply, but *then* the *real* IRS notices a problem and requests the excess, too. Now you have to pay twice the stolen amount!



What can you do to prevent these scams?



Make sure any sites you provide PII on have security features like two-step verification, encryption, and privacy certification.

Take it a step further with spending limits and transaction controls on your debit card, using fraud protection like **Entegra Bank's CardValet service**. **CardValet** gives you control, alerts, and even geographic controls that let you limit where in the world usage is allowed.

Fraudsters are after your hard-earned money, but you can protect it with smart controls and situational awareness.