



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 9, 2008

CONTACT:

Craig Butterworth

Phone: (804) 273-6932 ext. 355

Fax: (804) 217-5665

Email: cbutterworth@nw3c.org

**CYBER THIEVES LAUNCH PHISHING EXPEDITION USING
ECONOMIC STIMULUS CHECKS AS BAIT**

RICHMOND, VA When it comes to getting your tax rebate check, there's no faster or easier way than direct deposit! That's the advice contained in spam email, supposedly from the IRS, that's currently making the rounds on the Internet. The message contains a hyperlink to a fraudulent form which requests the recipient's personally identifiable information, including bank account information. Failure to complete the form in a timely fashion, the email warns, will delay the issuance of the rebate check.

Consumers are advised that the IRS does not initiate taxpayer communications via email. In addition, the IRS does not request detailed personal information via email or ask taxpayers for the pin numbers, passwords or similar secret access information for their credit card, bank or other financial accounts.

Remember, your best defense is self-defense: Delete any unsolicited email without opening it!

About NW3C

A congressionally-funded, non-profit organization, NW3C has been a continuously funded project for nearly 30 years. NW3C provides a national support network for state and local law enforcement agencies involved in the prevention, investigation and prosecution of financial crimes, cybercrimes and terrorism. For more information, please visit our web site: www.nw3c.org