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IRS Tax Scams Using iTunes, How They Do It.

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Hereby follows a typical procedure on how a scammer persuades a victim to pay the 'IRS' using iTunes gift cards.

The victim receives a robocall or text message notifying the taxpayer owes taxes and must call the IRS at a specific number, which may have the Washington DC '202' area code. Alternatively, the victim may receive a call from a person spoofing the caller ID to indicate the "Internal Revenue Service."

Once the victim is engaged with a live person, the scammer states personal information such as the taxpayer's full name, date of birth, and Social Security Number in order to convince the victim of the authenticity of the caller.

The scammer will aggressively attempt to instill fear in the victim by using classic threats of seizing your home, auto, arrest or deportation unless the target immediately pays thousands of dollars in back taxes. Threats that a law enforcement officer or ICE is on its way to arrest the victim are common.

The scammer informs the victim that the most efficient manner to pay the tax debt is with iTunes gift cards, which the scammer may call something else, such as Apple Pay, the company's mobile payment and digital wallet service.

A scammer often forces the victim to stay on the line to ensure the victim obeys. The victim is instructed to visit a retailer to buy iTunes gift cards in the amount of the outstanding tax obligation. The victim is instructed not to discuss the IRS call to anyone, including the retailer.

Once the cards are purchased, the victim gives the scammer the redemption codes on the reverse side of the cards. The scammer then quickly transfers the card balances to an iTunes account.