

Acceptance Testing System (ATS) in November 2004. For the 2005 filing season, many *IRS e-file* transmitters began successfully using the encrypted solutions, discontinuing use of non-encrypted transmissions whether by dedicated or dial-up links on the Public Switched Telephone Network (PSTN) for filers of Forms 940, 941, 1040, 1041, 1065, electronic tax documents, state Acknowledgment Files, and 990 family and 1120 family who are using the Electronic Management System.

Internet Transmission Filers

Recognizing that the majority of e-commerce and e-government applications are migrating to the Internet and using standard technologies, the Internal Revenue Service has provided the ability for authorized e-file Trading Partners to electronically transmit return information via an IRS-provided and certified secure Internet transport. Use of this secure Internet transport will require the use of Secure Sockets Layer (SSL) Version 3.0 using 128-bit encryption keys in an operational mode using the current modem based file transmission commands within a client commonly termed "TELNET/S". Note that EMS is unable to support the FTP protocol over the TELNET/S connection, but will continue to support Zmodem, YModem Batch, and XModem 1K protocols.

Dedicated Line Filers

Based on an analysis of various e-file trading partner capabilities, the Internal Revenue Service began permitting the use of a minimum 128-bit Federal Information Processing Standards (FIPS) approved but trading partner-chosen, procured, and installed method of encryption for use on trading partner-provided dedicated line(s), effective for the 2005 Filing Season. These dedicated lines' termination points may continue to be at the Martinsburg and Memphis EMS locations and may continue to use the existing TELNET and FTP protocol methods. Transmitters may install new encrypted lines, including ISDN, if they are approved by IRS. IRS sent to each trading partner with a dedicated line a revised annual Dedicated Leased Line Application on which the Trading Partner must identify the evaluation number referencing the chosen encryption method (e.g., Brand, Model Number, FIPS 140-x, Evaluation Number xxx, and Evaluation Date). Means of termination points for encrypted transmissions for dedicated line users could vary, determined by user configuration. IRS will contact each dedicated leased line Trading Partner

after receiving a revised dedicated leased line application. IRS is discontinuing support of dedicated lines' on IRS network equipment for filers of individual returns on November 1, 2005 and for business returns on December 30, 2005.

Cost Impacts and Taxpayer Burdens

The cost impact of the Internet SSL method to IRS e-filers is expected to be minimal. Support for SSL is provided at no extra cost in most Operating Systems available for the last five years, and is supported by the majority of Internet Service Providers (ISPs). The transmitters will incur the cost of the ISP, however, many of them already have and use an ISP. Currently the transmitters must pay for the long distance telephone call to the IRS front-end sites, and must make multiple calls if their transmission volume is high. Historic technologies also incur "dropped" calls. With use of the Internet, these occurrences should be reduced. Additionally, dial up access to ISPs are normally via local calls, including alternate phone numbers. Throughput transmission times to EMS have been very fast via the Internet.

ADDRESSES: Authorized *IRS e-file* Software Developers and dedicated leased line transmitters who have not requested the encryption solution documentation, should immediately e-mail requests with the "Doing-Business-As" Company name, ETIN, and EFIN to efile.transmission.encryption@irs.gov.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Questions will also be taken over the telephone. Call Carolyn Davis—202-283-0589 (not a toll-free number). You may write to Carolyn E. Davis, Senior Program Analyst, IRS, Electronic Tax Administration, OS:CIO:I:ET:S:TP, 5000 Ellin Road, Room C4-187, Lanham, MD 20706.

Dated: August 17, 2005.

Kim Cooper,

Acting Director, Strategic Services Division, Electronic Tax Administration.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY

Internal Revenue Service

Open Meeting of the Taxpayer Advocacy Panel Multilingual Initiative (MLI) Issue Committee Will be Conducted (Via Teleconference)

AGENCY: Internal Revenue Service (IRS), Treasury.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: An open meeting of the Taxpayer Advocacy Panel Multilingual Initiative (MLI) Issue Committee will be conducted (via teleconference). The Taxpayer Advocacy Panel is soliciting public comments, ideas, and suggestions on improving customer service at the Internal Revenue Service.

DATES: The meeting will be held Tuesday, September 13, 2005 from 2:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. ET.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Inez E. De Jesus at 1-888-912-1227, or (954) 423-7977.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Notice is hereby given pursuant to section 10(a)(2) of the Federal Advisory Committee Act, 5 U.S.C. App. (1988) that an open meeting of the Taxpayer Advocacy Panel Multilingual Initiative Issue Committee will be held Tuesday, September 13, 2005 from 2:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. ET via a telephone conference call. If you would like to have the TAP consider a written statement, please call 1-888-912-1227 or (954) 423-7977, or write Inez E. De Jesus, TAP Office, 1000 South Pine Island Rd., Suite 340, Plantation, FL 33324. Due to limited conference lines, notification of intent to participate in the telephone conference call meeting must be made with Inez E. De Jesus. Ms. De Jesus can be reached at 1-888-912-1227 or (954) 423-7977, or post comments to the Web site: <http://www.improveirs.org>.

The agenda will include the following: Various IRS issues.

Dated: August 18, 2005.

Martha Curry,

Acting Director, Taxpayer Advocacy Panel.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY

Internal Revenue Service

Open Meeting of the Area 2 Taxpayer Advocacy Panel (Including the States of Delaware, North Carolina, South Carolina, New Jersey, Maryland, Pennsylvania, Virginia, West Virginia and the District of Columbia)

AGENCY: Internal Revenue Service (IRS), Treasury.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: An open meeting of the Area 2 Taxpayer Advocacy Panel will be conducted (via teleconference). The Taxpayer Advocacy Panel is soliciting public comments, ideas, and suggestions on improving customer service at the Internal Revenue Service.