



Building Privacy into IRS Programs

Office of the Privacy Advocate



Privacy Advocate Mission

**To create, promote and
support privacy programs
and privacy awareness**



Poll: Public Likes E-Gov But Fears For Privacy

**“Citizens concerned about privacy
when interacting with the
government online”**

***Federal Times* (April 21, 2003)**



Tools to Protect Privacy

- Privacy Principles
- Customized Privacy Training
- Privacy Impact Assessments
- Privacy Notices



IRS Privacy Principles

- Protecting taxpayer privacy is a public trust.
- We collect only enough information to get the job done, and no more.



IRS Privacy Principles

- Information will be used only for the purpose collected or as required by law.
- Information will be collected from primary sources whenever possible; it will be verified before final action is taken.

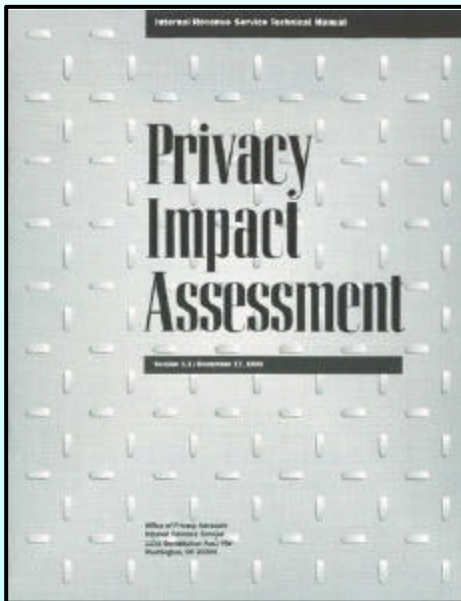


IRS Privacy Principles

**Each IRS employee is responsible
for protecting the public's
right to privacy, whether
on-line or in-person**



Privacy Impact Assessment



- *Why we collect the data*
- *Who will see it*
- *How we validate it*
- *How we protect it*



Privacy Impact Assessment

- *Data in the system*
- *Access to the data*
- *Attributes of the data*
- *Maintenance and controls*
- *Systems of Records*



IRS Sets New Record

“IRS saw significant jumps involving e-filing and its web site...”

SmartPro (May 6, 2003)



E-Government Act of 2002

Requirements:

- Privacy Impact Assessments
- Posted Privacy Notices
- Machine-readable privacy policies



Questions?

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