



# IRS Tax Tip 2015-01: Top Five Reasons to E-file

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IRS Tax Tips

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### Top Five Reasons to E-file

Are you still using the old school method of doing your taxes? Do you still mail paper forms to the IRS? If so, make this the year you switch to a much faster and safer way of filing your taxes. Join the nearly 126 million taxpayers who used IRS e-file to file their taxes last year. Here are the top five reasons why you should file electronically too:

**1. Accurate and easy.** IRS e-file is the best way to file an accurate tax return. The tax software that you use to e-file helps avoid mistakes by doing the math for you. It guides you every step of the way as you do your taxes. IRS e-file can also help with the new health care law tax provisions. The bottom line is that e-file is much easier than doing your taxes by hand and mailing paper tax forms.

**2. Convenient options.** You can buy [commercial tax software](#) to e-file or ask your [tax preparer](#) to e-file your tax return. You can also e-file through [IRS Free File](#), the free tax preparation and e-file program available only on IRS.gov. You may qualify to have your taxes filed through the [IRS Volunteer Income Tax Assistance or Tax Counseling for the Elderly programs](#). In general, VITA offers free tax preparation and e-file if you earned \$53,000 or less. TCE offers help primarily to people who are age 60 or

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older.

**3. Safe and secure.** IRS e-file meets strict security guidelines. It uses secure encryption technology to protect your tax return. The IRS has safely and securely processed more than 1.3 billion e-filed tax returns from individuals since the program began.

**4. Faster refunds.** In most cases you get your refund faster when you e-file. That's because there is nothing to mail and your return is virtually free of mistakes. The fastest way to get your refund is to combine e-file with direct deposit into your bank account. The IRS issues most refunds in less than 21 days.

**5. Payment flexibility.** If you owe taxes, you can e-file early and set up an automatic payment on any day until the April 15 due date. You can pay electronically from your bank account. You can also pay by check, money order, debit or credit card. Visit [IRS.gov/payments](http://IRS.gov/payments) for more information.

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