

## Five Good Reasons to E-file Your Tax Return

If you haven't tried IRS e-file before, now is the time. Most taxpayers – more than 80 percent – file electronically. Since the nationwide debut of electronic filing in 1990, more than 1 billion individual tax returns have been e-filed safely and securely. Consequently, fewer people file a paper tax return every year. Here are five good reasons to e-file your tax return:

1. **Accurate and complete.** E-file is the best way to file an accurate and complete tax return. Tax returns that are incomplete or include errors take longer to process.
2. **Safe and secure.** Tax preparers and software companies who e-file must meet strict guidelines and provide the best in encryption technology. You receive an acknowledgement within 48 hours that the IRS received your tax return. If the IRS does not accept your tax return, you will receive notification and can quickly correct your return and resubmit it.
3. **Faster refunds.** An e-filed tax return usually means a faster refund compared to a paper return. Most refunds are issued in less than 21 days. If you choose direct deposit, your refund goes directly into your bank account. Combining e-file with direct deposit is the fastest way to get your refund. About three out of four taxpayers who file receive a tax refund. Last year the average refund was about \$2,700.
4. **Payment options.** If you owe tax, you can e-file early and set an automatic payment date anytime on or before the April 15 due date. You can pay by check or money order, by debit or credit card, or by transferring funds electronically from your bank account.
5. **It's easy.** You can e-file on your own through IRS Free File, the free tax preparation and e-filing service available exclusively at [IRS.gov](https://www.irs.gov). You can also use commercial tax preparation software or ask your tax preparer to e-file your return. And, if you qualify, IRS Volunteer Income Tax Assistance and Tax Counseling for the Elderly partners will e-file your return for free.

Additional information on e-filing, including podcasts and YouTube videos, is available on-line at [IRS.gov](https://www.irs.gov).

***"Next to being shot at and missed, nothing is really quite as satisfying as an income tax refund."***  
— F. J. Raymond, humorist