

Why the IRS plan to use ID.me facial recognition is so alarming | Slate Future Tense

By James Hendler

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The U.S. Internal Revenue Service is planning to [require citizens to create accounts](#) with a private facial recognition company in order to file taxes online. The IRS is joining a growing number of federal and state agencies that have contracted with [ID.me](#) to authenticate the identities of people accessing services.

The IRS's move is aimed at cutting down on identity theft, a crime that [affects millions of Americans](#). The IRS, in particular, has reported a number of tax filings from people claiming to be others, and [fraud in many of the programs](#) that were administered as part of the [American Relief Plan](#) has been a major concern to the government.

The IRS decision has prompted a backlash, in part over concerns about requiring citizens to use facial recognition technology and in part over difficulties some people have had in using the system, particularly with some state agencies that provide unemployment benefits. The reaction has prompted the IRS to [revisit its decision](#).

[...]

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