

Massachusetts Genealogy Council
Civil Records Committee

Identity Theft, Tax Fraud, and the Death Master File

Timeline

Compiled by Barbara J. Mathews, CG, FASG
19 January 2015

Interesting points highlighted in red.

An explanation from the Social Security Administration about what they publish in the Death Master File can be found at: http://www.ssa.gov/dataexchange/request_dmf.html

In the realm of Congressional Hearings, there is a single portal at the Government Printing Office. If you know where your endpoint is, i.e., House or Senate or Joint, committee or subcommittee, you can eventually find your link:

<http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/browse/collection.action?collectionCode=CHRG>

Date	Locale	People	Comments
10/8/1976	Department of Justice	Letter to the U.S. Attorney General	"It is a pleasure for me to transmit the report of the Federal Advisory Committee on False Identification. This report is the first comprehensive look at the criminal use of false identification: a multibillion dollar federal, state, and local problem." http://babel.hathitrust.org/cgi/pt?id=uc1.b4178088;view=1up;seq=8
1980	U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia	In 1978, Ronald J. Perholtz sued Stanford G. Ross (Social Security Administration) for access to the Death Master File	Perholtz v Ross, Civ. No. 78-2385 and 78-2386, U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia, 1980.
10/1996	Ancestry.com	Ancestry.com blogger Juliana Szucs	Ancestry first posts records online. Among them is the Social Security Index: "[W]hen Ancestry.com began posting actual records online in October 1996, I was like a kid in a candy shop. The first online collection in which I was able to actually locate a relative in was the Social Security Death Index (SSDI)." http://www.ancestry.com/cs/Satellite?childpage=USLearningCenter%2FLearning_C%2FPageDefault&pagename=LearningWrapper&cid=1265125305199

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11/8/2001	House Joint Hearing	Several subcommittees including Social Security and Oversight	<p>"Hearing on Preventing Identity Theft by Terrorists and Criminals"</p> <p>http://archives.financialservices.house.gov/archive/hearings83.shtml</p> <p>Congressional Record, "Preventing Identity Theft by Terrorists and Criminals"</p> <p>http://archives.financialservices.house.gov/media/pdf/107-50.pdf</p> <p>See the testimony of John C. Dugan, starting on page 32. He spoke on behalf of the Financial Services Coordinating Council about the "integral role of Social Security Numbers in U.S. commercial activities" and about how delays in updating the DMF led to fraud.</p>
Summer 2002	Journal of Economic Crime Management	Norman A. Willox, Jr., Chief Officer for Privacy, Industry and Regulatory Affairs for the Lexis-Nexis Group and Thomas M. Regan, Esq., "Identity Fraud: Providing a Solution"	<p>http://www.popcenter.org/problems/identity_theft/PDFs/willox.pdf</p>
4/10/2007	U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia	Senate Finance Committee Chair Max Baucus (D-MT) and Ranking Member Chuck Grassley (R-IA) sue the Justice Department for the right to have a person convicted of fraud testify in a hearing	<p>"Justice Department Fails in Effort to Block Congressional Testimony on Identity Theft, Tax Fraud" includes links to Senate and Justice Motions</p> <p>http://www.finance.senate.gov/newsroom/chairman/release/?id=076705d3-f9e0-4992-9c25-81bccdead772</p>
4/10/2007	Senate Finance Committee	Chair Max Baucus (D-MT) issues hearing notice	<p>"Baucus Statement on Tax-Related Identity Theft"</p> <p>http://www.finance.senate.gov/newsroom/chairman/release/?id=95e8d8e6-9ef4-4c06-9cc5-4a5914e526ac</p>
4/12/2007	Senate Finance Committee Hearing	Chair Max Baucus (D-MT) and Ranking Member Chuck Grassley (R-IA)	<p>"Filing Your Taxes: An Ounce of Prevention is Worth a Pound of Cure" – video, testimony, and link to printed record:</p> <p>http://www.finance.senate.gov/hearings/hearing/?id=e2125e26-fd0b-44f7-1402-525cdcb9eca6</p>

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			<p>Separate link in right-hand column provides testimony of convict which ends with this statement, "What I don't understand is why doesn't the IRS have some type of security measure by issuing out a pin number or even using a mother's maiden name when filing electronically or even calling in the call center, there should be some type of extra measure to safe guard the people' s tax records in my opinion."</p> <p>http://www.finance.senate.gov/imo/media/doc/041207testsoukaspdf.pdf</p>
6/13/2007	ABC 4 in Salt Lake City	Annie Cutler, "Numbers to Survive"	<p>"20,000 Utah identities stolen. This is just the very start - these are just those on public assistance, let alone the general population in Utah (or the nation, for that matter)"</p> <p>https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sHQ9sg4LRvc</p>
8/28/2007	Senate Finance Committee	Baucus and Grassley	<p>They issue a letter asking "the Government Accountability Office (GAO) to investigate the growing problem of tax fraud related to identity theft"</p> <p>http://www.finance.senate.gov/newsroom/c_hairman/release/?id=698392e4-1ff2-4a9b-8591-d3f30014ba7a</p>
1/22/2008 1/24/2008 1/29/2008	Senate Finance Committee Hearings	Baucus and Grassley	<p>Two hearings to consider the Economic Stimulus Act are followed one week later by a hearing to consider the nomination of a new commissioner for the IRS. Of particular interest is the press release by Baucus following that hearing, "Baucus Presses IRS Nominee For Quick Action On Stimulus Checks"</p> <p>http://www.finance.senate.gov/newsroom/c_hairman/release/?id=64ecc461-7f5b-4b82-b5bb-22a3bb1d0fd2</p>
2/13/2008	Enactment	Economic Stimulus Act of 2008	<p>Wikipedia:</p> <p>http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Economic_Stimulus_Act_of_2008</p>
3/25/2008	Treasury Department	Treasury Inspector General for Tax Administration (TIGTA) issues report	<p>"Outreach Has Improved, but More Action Is Needed to Effectively Address Employment-Related and Tax Fraud Identity Theft"</p> <p>http://www.treasury.gov/tigta/auditreports/2008reports/200840086fr.pdf</p>

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4/9/2008	Senate Finance Committee	Baucus issues statement	<p>"Baucus Comments on TIGTA Identity Theft Report"</p> <p>http://www.finance.senate.gov/newsroom/chairman/release/?id=15fc97d4-7c9d-4264-a027-ace9f062b524</p>
4/10/2008	Senate Finance Committee Hearing	Baucus and Grassley	<p>"Identity Theft: Who's Got Your Number?"</p> <p>http://www.finance.senate.gov/hearings/hearing/?id=dd09b8da-da5f-20cc-93af-72b305954ba5</p> <p>Nina Olson, the Taxpayer Advocate, focused on how the IRS was unable to deal with ID theft – link to her testimony:</p> <p>http://www.finance.senate.gov/imo/media/doc/041008notest.pdf</p>
8/5/2008	Senate Finance Committee	Baucus issues statement	<p>"Baucus Challenges 'Tepid' IRS Response To I.D. Theft"</p> <p>http://www.finance.senate.gov/newsroom/chairman/release/?id=1bf7c726-dc2e-4c70-8971-a8457d84f0b8</p>
3/24/2010	KTVK tv, Phoenix, Arizona	Tyler Baldwin, "Illegal Alien steals Maricopa deputy's ID. Gets work with it. Plus Sheriff Joe Arpaio Interview"	<p>The sheriff's deputy has his identity stolen.</p> <p>https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xMccqGYIEI</p>
1/14/2011	Tragedy in the Agin family	Jonathan Agin's child died just shy of five years and had suffered from brain cancer.	<p>YouTube: "Alexis Agin - Another Princess earns her Angel wings - 1/14/11"</p> <p>https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MPvfLqMRoFs</p> <p>Obituary in the Washington Post:</p> <p>http://www.legacy.com/obituaries/washingtonpost/obituary.aspx?n=alexis-g-agin&pid=147819059</p> <p>CaringBridge (journal posts continue from father Jonathan, most recently updated in July 2014, all posts are publically viewable):</p> <p>http://www.caringbridge.org/visit/teamalexis</p> <p>SSDI (requires login):</p> <p>http://search.ancestry.com/cgi-bin/sse.dll?new=1&gsfn=alexis&gsln=agin&rank=1&gss=angs-i&db=ssdi&indiv=1&pf=1&h=89432503&requr=281474977005569&ur=0</p> <p>John Walsh, "Heartbreak and Vigilance: Jonathan '94 and Neely Agin deal with the loss of their 5-year-old daughter and fight</p>

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			social security fraud," <i>John Carroll Magazine</i> , posted in 2011: http://sites.jcu.edu/magazine/2013/03/23/heartbreak-and-vigilance/
4/15/2011	IRS Filing Deadline	Presumably Jonathan Agin requests IRS tax extension	<u>No evidence</u> but suspect an extension was needed in order to process and organize the medical expenses for deductions. (Based on my personal experience of the year I deducted \$110K for my daughter's treatment.)
5/17/2011	NBC Today Show	Jeff Rossen, "Child Social Security Number Theft - How Thieves Steal Prior To Birth, Destructive Implications"	"As an investigation by NBC's Jeff Rossen and TODAY revealed Thursday, criminals routinely use a child's pristine credit record to their advantage and get away with it for years or decades — even if law enforcement knows exactly where the imposters live. TODAY showed this in dramatic fashion, hunting down two alleged child imposters and capturing their comments on camera." https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zXWzVF24xAk
5/25/2011	Senate Finance Committee's Subcommittee on Fiscal Responsibility and Economic Growth Hearing	Chair Bill Nelson (D-FL) and Ranking Member Mike Crapo (R-ID)	"The Spread of Tax Fraud by Identity Theft: A Threat to Taxpayers, A Drain on the Public Treasury" http://www.finance.senate.gov/hearings/hearing/?id=32a4f2cc-5056-a032-5258-8967bf140b37 Direct link to statement by ID theft victim (her pocketbook was stolen), which states in part, "On February 9 th my accountant filed my taxes electronically, only to receive a message back that there was already a tax return filed under my SSN, and therefore it was not possible to file any other return. I immediately called the IRS to report what I clearly understood as a fraud and asked for help on correcting the situation. The response I got back was that it was going to be a long wait, and that I had to send my original tax file by mail, along with a new affidavit and proof of identity.": http://www.finance.senate.gov/imo/media/doc/Testimony%20of%20Florida%20ID%20Theft%20Victim.pdf
10/15/2011	IRS Filing Deadline	Presumably Jonathan Agin files his return	<u>No evidence</u> but at some point Jonathan Agin learned that his daughter's SSN had already

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		and has his deduction for his daughter denied.	<p>been used. At that point, Agin later testified that he Googled Alexis and saw that her SSN was listed in the SSDI.</p> <p>Agin's decision at this point was to take this issue to Rep. Sam Johnson, Chair of the Social Security Subcommittee of the House Ways and Means Committee. That decision locked any "solution" into things the subcommittee could control, which is only SSDI access and not IRS errors.</p>
10/19/2011	Journal of the American Medical Association	Mike Mitka, "Changes in Access to Death Data May Impede Medical Research" regarding the November 2011 redaction of 4.5 millions death records from the SSDI	<p>"The problem: beginning on November 1, the SSA will no longer make public the death records that it receives from the states. This means that 4.2 million death records of the 89 million archived by the SSA will be immediately withdrawn from public use. Going forward, an expected 1 million of approximately 2.8 million death records compiled by the SSA each year will be kept from public eyes."</p> <p>http://newsatjama.jama.com/2011/10/19/changes-in-access-to-death-data-may-impede-medical-research/</p>
11/1/2011	SSA	SSA issues notice that they are withdrawing 4.5 million death records; they also redact geographic information from the DMF, without a hearing, based on their new interpretation of existing statutes	<p>The NTIS notice is posted at https://www.ntis.gov/assets/pdf/import-change-dmf.pdf</p> <p>Stephen Danko, "Changes to the Public Death Master File (DMF) and the Social Security Death Index (SSDI)" (note that the first two links in the blog post no longer work)</p> <p>http://stephendanko.com/blog/15164</p> <p>Earl F Glynn, "Research Limitations with "New" Death Master File"</p> <p>http://watchdoglabs.org/blog/2012/08/09/research-limitations-with-new-death-master-file/</p> <p>SSA left up the data file field definitions: https://dmf.ntis.gov/recordlayout.pdf</p>
11/1/2011	Ancestry.com	Ancestry	<p>Biggest genealogy data provider pulls Public DMF behind its paywall. In addition, Ancestry scrubs off SSNs from records for people who died within the last ten years:</p> <p>"Why can't I see the Social Security Number? If the Social Security Number is not visible on the record index it is because Ancestry.com does not provide this number in the Social</p>

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			<p>Security Death Index for any person that has passed away within the past 10 years.” Login required: http://search.ancestry.com/search/db.aspx?dbid=3693</p>
2/2/2012 <i>[sic]</i>	House Ways and Means Committee’s Social Security Subcommittee	Chair Sam Johnson (R-TX) and Ranking Member Xavier Becerra (D-CA)	<p>“Chairman Johnson Announces a Hearing on Social Security’s Death Records” http://waysandmeans.house.gov/news/documentsingle.aspx?DocumentID=276834</p>
2/2/2012	House Ways and Means Committee’s Social Security Subcommittee Hearing	Chair Sam Johnson (R-TX) and Ranking Member Xavier Becerra (D-CA)	<p>“Chairman Johnson Announces a Hearing on Social Security’s Death Records” <i>[sic, title is also title of announcement]</i>. It states, “The hearing will focus on the history, accuracy, use and impacts of the Death Master File along with options for change.” Jonathan Agin appeared as the first public witness, after SSA Commissioner Astrue. http://waysandmeans.house.gov/calendar/eventsingle.aspx?EventID=276835 Coverage in the Congressional Record includes witness testimony and submissions for the record: PDF http://www.google.com/url?sa=t&rct=j&q=&esrc=s&source=web&cd=1&ved=0CCAQFjAA&url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.gpo.gov%2Ffdsys%2Fpkg%2FCHRG-112hhr78179%2Fpdf%2FCHRG-112hhr78179.pdf&ei=q9tYVPbBC-3ksAT7pIGgAQ&usg=AFQjCNFbLVCO5tYjidQE3--0zg0HuqBGw&sig2=9rLBYuPBpTYQUN4ly1QYyw&bvm=bv.78677474,d.cWc Text file http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/CHRG-112hhr78179/html/CHRG-112hhr78179.htm</p>
3/20/2012	Senate Finance Committee’s Subcommittee on Fiscal Responsibility and Economic Growth Hearing	Nelson and Crapo	<p>“Tax Fraud by Identity Theft, Part 2: Status, Progress, and Potential Solutions” http://www.finance.senate.gov/hearings/hearing/?id=8c908260-5056-a032-525c-4f663b8d35f8</p>

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4/5/2012	SSA to House Social Security Subcommittee	Letter from SSA Inspector General to Rep. Sam Johnson	<p>SSA IG answers questions for the record arising out of 2/2/2012 hearing;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • letter includes rationale for leaving geographic information out of SSDI. • the fact that the SSA errs in including some living people in the SSDI is used as an excuse – not to fix that situation – but to stop distributing the SSDI. <p>http://waysandmeans.house.gov/uploadedfiles/qfr_patocarroll_ss_2_2_12.pdf</p>
4/9/2013	NBC News	Pete Williams, “White House to propose restrictions on Master Death File to fight tax fraud”	<p>“In its budget proposal to be sent to Congress Wednesday, the administration will propose delaying public release of death data for at least three years, while still making it available to users able to demonstrate a legitimate need for it. Rep. Sam Johnson, a Texas Republican who chairs the House Social Security subcommittee, is expected to introduce a bill within a few weeks to impose restrictions on access to the death data. He introduced a similar bill in the last Congress. "Worrying about a loved one's Social Security number is the last thing a grieving family should have to do," he said.”</p> <p>http://investigations.nbcnews.com/news/2013/04/09/17675084-white-house-to-propose-restrictions-on-master-death-file-to-fight-tax-fraud</p>
5/8/2012 <i>[sic]</i>	Joint Hearing of the House Social Security Subcommittee and the House Oversight Subcommittee	Chairs Sam Johnson (R-TX) and Charles Boustany, Jr., MD (R-LA), announce hearing	<p>“Chairmen Boustany and Johnson Announce Hearing on Identity Theft and Tax Fraud”</p> <p>http://waysandmeans.house.gov/news/documentsingle.aspx?DocumentID=293590</p>
5/8/2012	Joint Hearing of the Homeland Security Committee, Social Security Subcommittee and the House Oversight Subcommittee	Johnson and Boustany	<p>“Chairmen Boustany and Johnson Announce Hearing on Identity Theft and Tax Fraud” <i>[sic]</i>, includes links to testimony</p> <p>http://waysandmeans.house.gov/calendar/eventsingle.aspx?EventID=293593</p> <p>In particular the testimony of the Inspector General for the Social Security Administration provides an overview of the Death Master File:</p>

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			http://waysandmeans.house.gov/uploadedfiles/patrickocarroll_os_ss_5_8_12.pdf
6/30/2012	IRS	Nina Olson, National Taxpayer Advocate, "Fiscal Year 2013 Objectives: Report to Congress"	The Identity Theft Victim Assistance Strategy starts on page 9: http://www.taxpayeradvocate.irs.gov/userfiles/file/fy13objectivesreporttocongress.pdf
10/8/2012	New York Times	Kevin Sack, "Researchers Wring Hands as U.S. Clamps Down on Death Record Access"	This is primarily on medical research, for example, "Jesse D. Schold, a health researcher at the Cleveland Clinic, said the holes in the master file, which will only grow larger, had already compromised his investigation into mortality rates among living kidney donors.": http://www.nytimes.com/2012/10/09/us/social-security-death-record-limits-hinder-researchers.html?_r=1&
10/9/2012	Watch Dog Labs	Earl F. Glynn, "Research Limitations with 'New' Death Master File"	"In late 2011 the Social Security Administration made changes to the Death Master File to delete 4.2 million records and to remove geographic information. At the same time the SSA announced they would be reporting fewer deaths in the future. About 36% of the deaths previously reported in the DMF will now not appear. These changes to the DMF impose analysis limitations and may make the data nearly worthless within a few years. Reporters looking for dead people who are still registered to vote will become less and less effective in their searches using the DMF in future years." http://watchdoglabs.org/blog/2012/08/09/research-limitations-with-new-death-master-file/
1/7/2013	Federal Register	IRS	IRS publishes Final Rule for using Truncated Taxpayer Identification Numbers to provide greater security. http://www.regulations.gov/#!documentDetail;D=IRS-2013-0004-0016
1/28/2013	CNBC	Scott Cohn, "How Identity Thieves Snatch Billions in Phony Tax Refunds" This covers a second child whose SSN was	"The nursery in Terry and Stephanie McClung's house in suburban Baltimore seems frozen in time. A display case in the hallway is filled with memories of their daughter, Kaitlyn, who died in May, 2009, of sudden infant death syndrome (SIDS) at the age of five months... Alongside the pain the

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		used – but that event was four years before this dude is writing this article.	McClungs still feel nearly four years after the death of their daughter is a feeling of bewilderment and even violation over what happened next. They filed their 2008 income tax return, claiming Kaitlyn as a dependent. But the IRS rejected the return.” http://www.cnn.com/id/100412945
2/1/2013	Fox tv, channel 26, Houston, TX	Isiah Carey, “Ultimate Identity Theft!”	“Dexter Evans life has been a nightmare for the last 12 years...He's been denied the American dream he worked so hard to try and achieve. Evans says, ‘I feel totally betrayed by the system we have all of these computers if you have a, b, and c in place how do you miss it.’ Here's what Evans and Harris County investigators say the system missed - this man: 36 year old Edgar Linares. According to the sheriff's office Linares somehow obtained Evans social security number back in 2001 and created his own American dream.” https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IdJYx1O28lk
3/29/2013	NBC News	Kate Snow, “On Assignment: Why your tax refund is becoming a growing target for identity thieves”	“For many months, Rock Center has been investigating an underworld of crime involving something that sounds really boring-- tax refund fraud. But when you see the money these criminals are raking in and the luxury cars they drive, you'll understand why it's one of the fastest growing crimes in America.” http://rockcenter.nbcnews.com/news/2013/03/27/17474825-on-assignment-why-your-tax-refund-is-becoming-a-growing-target-for-identity-thieves?lite
4/3/2013	CNBC	Scott Cohn, “Identity Theft: Why Tax Refund Fraud Could Get Worse”	http://www.cnn.com/id/100614557#_gus
7/13/2013	House floor	Sam Johnson introduces H.R. 2720, the Alexis Agin Identity Theft Protection Act of 2013	YouTube: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tld_X-BxC9I Social Security Subcommittee page for bill: http://waysandmeans.house.gov/socialsecurity/alexis-agin-identity-theft-protection-act-of-2013.htm

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			<p>The National Association for Public Health Statistics and Information Systems (NAPHSIS) sent a support letter which states, in part, “At such time the DMF is no longer available, vital records jurisdictions will be ready to accept queries directly from approved governmental and nongovernmental entities requiring access to death records for administrative purposes through EVVE.” In other words, they have a monetary horse-in-the-race and the Public DMF is their largest competitor.</p> <p>http://waysandmeans.house.gov/uploadedfiles/naphsis.hr2720.jul2013.pdf</p>
7/29/2013	Huffington Post	Chris Gentilviso, “GAO Audit: USDA Paid Millions To Thousands Of Dead Farmers”	<p>Apparently the IRS isn’t the only agency that doesn’t bother to check the DMF:</p> <p>http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2013/07/29/gao-audit-usda_n_3673761.html</p>
8/2/2013	House subcommittee on Oversight Hearing	Chair Darrell E. Issa (R-CA), Ranking Member Elijah Cummings (D-MD)	<p>“Examining the Skyrocketing Problem of Identity Theft Related Tax Fraud at the IRS.” Includes video and testimony.</p> <p>http://oversight.house.gov/hearing/examining-the-skyrocketing-problem-of-identity-theft-related-tax-fraud-at-the-irs/#</p>
8/13/2013	Fox 26, Houston	Isiah Carey, “Selling Social Security Numbers”	<p>“Fox 26 news has learned a former Harris County jail employee is now the subject of the three investigations for theft that could affect dozens of detainees. That person, who we’re not identifying until there is an arrest, is accused of stealing the social security numbers of 75 to 100 Harris County inmates.”</p> <p>http://www.myfoxboston.com/story/23129070/2013/08/13/selling-social-security-numbers</p>
9/4/2013	Brownsville [Texas] Herald	Mark Reagan, “Man sentenced in tax fraud scam that used Ancestry.com”	<p>One of few cases involving the SSDI. The fraud was committed for 2007 tax year (six years to convict? Ouch!)– which makes sense as Ancestry has already shut off the display of SSNs.</p> <p>http://www.themonitor.com/news/local/article_56ec6eba-15c6-11e3-b0e6-0019bb30f31a.html</p>
9/20/2013	TIGTA	“Detection Has Improved; However,	Final Report Reference Number: 2013-40-122

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		Identity Theft Continues to Result in Billions of Dollars in Potentially Fraudulent Tax Refunds”	http://www.treasury.gov/tigta/auditreports/2013reports/201340122fr.pdf This is the report whose page 8 contains the Figure 4 that shows tax fraud involving the deceased is a mere 1.8% of all fraud. That’s the figure that several of us used in blog posts.
9/21/2014	CBS news	60 Minutes, “Biggest IRS scam around: Identity tax refund fraud”	http://www.cbs.com/shows/60_minutes/video/RzmZGQTr7RPHG2pfxMj4ufrsdTRnQXPd/biggest-irs-scam-around-identity-tax-refund-fraud/
9/26/2013	TIGTA	“Case Processing Delays and Tax Account Errors Increased Hardship for Victims of Identity Theft”	Final Report Reference Number: 2013-40-129 http://www.treasury.gov/tigta/auditreports/2013reports/201340129fr.pdf
10/13/2013	Channel 10 News, Tampa Bay, Florida	Associated Press, “ID theft-tax fraud sweep nets charges against 45”	“Ferrer says those charged were responsible for at least 22,000 stolen or compromised identities. Many were insiders that used jobs at places such as health care providers, restaurants, schools and prisons to gain access to the identities. The identities were used in attempts to claim more than \$38 million in fraudulent tax refunds. Of that amount, about \$11.5 million was actually paid out in these latest cases.” http://www.wtsp.com/story/news/local/florida/2014/03/12/2040716/
11/21/2013	Senate Finance Committee	Baucus releases staff draft bills; Hatch opposed	Baucus releases staff drafts of tax reform legislation, including links to pdfs. 11/19/2013, “Baucus Unveils Proposals for International Tax Reform” http://www.finance.senate.gov/newsroom/chairman/release/?id=f946a9f3-d296-42ad-bae4-bcf451b34b14 11/20/2013, “Baucus Unveils Proposal to Combat Tax Fraud, Make Filing Safer, Simpler and More Efficient” http://www.finance.senate.gov/newsroom/chairman/release/?id=a4f8205c-d286-4a41-a61d-753d1abd23d3 11/21/2013, “Baucus Works to Overhaul Outdated Tax Code”

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			http://www.finance.senate.gov/newsroom/c-hairman/release/?id=536eefeb-2ae2-453f-af9b-946c305d5c93 Hatch's opposition, 11/19/2012, to releases: http://www.finance.senate.gov/newsroom/r-anking/release/?id=e0960566-0b21-478a-8a99-4a7bd5d2627e
11/27/2013	GAO	"Social Security Death Data: Additional Action Needed to Address Data Errors and Federal Agency Access"	This website announces the report and includes links to a highlights sheet and to the report itself: http://www.gao.gov/products/GAO-14-46
12/10/2013	House and Senate Joint Budget Committee	Rep. Paul Ryan (R-WI) and Sen. Patty Murray (D-WA) introduce their compromise bill for the federal budget	Text: http://thomas.loc.gov/home/gpoxmlc113/hj59_enr.xml Wikipedia provides timeline: 12/12/2013 passes the House 12/18/2012 passes the Senate 12/26/2012 signed into law http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bipartisan_Budget_Act_of_2013
12/12/2013	Sam Johnson's office, House	Sam Johnson (R-TX)	Johnson takes a victory lap for Section 203 of the budget bill, "House Passes Anti-Fraud Cause Championed by Johnson Provision included in the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2013" http://samjohnson.house.gov/news/documentsingle.aspx?DocumentID=364655
12/18/2013	Newsweek	Leah McGrath Goodman, "The Deathly Flaw Buried in the Budget Deal"	(Disclosure: includes quotes from Melinde Byrne, Sharon Sergeant, and Barbara Mathews) http://www.newsweek.com/deathly-flaw-buried-deep-budget-deal-224764
3/4/2014	National Technical Information Systems (NTIS)	NTIS holds a public meeting about the new Limited Access DMF	"Comments presented in the public meeting Monday, March 4, 2014, and submitted to the Request for Information (79 FR 11735, are available at" [the advanced notice of the public meeting]: http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2014-03-03/pdf/2014-04584.pdf
7/31/2014	Senate Finance Committee	Ron Wyden (D-Oregon), Chairman of the Senate Finance Committee, and	Announcement: http://www.finance.senate.gov/newsroom/r-anking/release/?id=f02a3a1f-e7ea-40ff-8e60-b16b61bf89ba

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		Orrin Hatch (R-Utah), Ranking Member, introduce new legislation	S. 2736, Tax Refund Theft Prevention Act of 2014, text: http://www.hatch.senate.gov/public/cache/files/9be9f224-d2d4-4efb-a024-c214f2ece8a3/OTT14392.pdf
8/20/2014	GAO	"Identity Theft: Additional Actions Could Help IRS Combat the Large, Evolving Threat of Refund Fraud"	"IDT refund fraud takes advantage of IRS's 'look-back' compliance model. Under this model, rather than holding refunds until completing all compliance checks, IRS issues refunds after conducting selected reviews. While there are no simple solutions, one option is earlier matching of employer-reported wage information to taxpayers' returns before issuing refunds. IRS currently cannot do such matching because employers' wage data (from Form W-2s) are not available until months after IRS issues most refunds. Consequently, IRS begins matching employer-reported W-2 data to tax returns in July, following the tax season. If IRS had access to W-2 data earlier—through accelerated W-2 deadlines and increased electronic filing of W-2s—it could conduct pre-refund matching and identify discrepancies to prevent the issuance of billions in fraudulent refunds." This website includes announcement, links to highlights sheet and report itself, and even a podcast: http://www.gao.gov/products/GAO-14-633
9/22/2014	Senate, Orrin Hatch's office	Orrin Hatch issues press release	"GAO: Action Needed to Combat \$5 Billion Tax Refund Fraud: New Report Calls on IRS to Implement Stronger Safeguards to Protect Private Taxpayer Information" – includes advice to move W2 filing deadlines to earlier in year http://www.hatch.senate.gov/public/index.cfm/releases?ID=1a2910b2-9483-4155-a23e-d67553e6d835
12/30/2014	Federal Register	NTIS	Introduction goes over several points still needing comments, such as impact on small businesses: http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2014-12-30/pdf/2014-30199.pdf Comments must be submitted through the Comment button here:

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			https://www.federalregister.gov/articles/2014/12/30/2014-30199/certification-program-for-access-to-the-death-master-file#h-4
1/8/2015	Senate Finance Committee	Orrin Hatch appointed as Chair and Ron Wyden as Ranking Member	<p>“Hatch Statement on Selection as Chairman of Senate Finance Committee,” shows that overall tax reform will be one of the goals: http://www.finance.senate.gov/newsroom/chairman/release/?id=51b3b346-9316-4e55-af11-438ef1041b11</p>
1/6/2015	House Social Security Subcommittee	Sam Johnson continues as Chair and Xavier Becerra as Ranking Member	<p>Sam Johnson’s statement on being named Chair shows that Social Security Disability Income will be under his magnifying lens. (Note the comments below which begin with “Hey Sam--raiding the Social Security retirement program to bail out the disability program? What a disgraceful misrepresentation of what’s happening in this program. Here are the facts: the reasons that the DI fund is depleting are purely demographic and you know it. These transfers have taken place as a matter of routine 11 times and have very, very little impact on the OASI fund. You know that, too. It’s been well known since the 90’s that this transfer will need to take place as it has routinely since 1960. The real goal of this pathetic move is to diminish Social Security altogether, because your philosophy is that it shouldn’t exist at all. What you’ve done here, Sam, is declared war on the disabled rather than do the right thing, which is to lift the earnings cap on FICA taxes in order to bring more revenue into the program. You know that most people have no idea that there is a cap of \$118,500, beyond which people don’t pay FICA taxes. If the disabled have to endure a 20 percent cut in what are already inadequate benefits no one will be more at fault for this than you.”): http://samjohnson.house.gov/news/documentsingle.aspx?DocumentID=397616</p>

The White House budget levels for 2013-2024:

http://www.whitehouse.gov/sites/default/files/omb/budget/fy2015/assets/28_1.pdf