

USE *e-file* TO MAKE TAX TIME BETTER

There's good news this year when it comes to doing your taxes. Electronically preparing and filing your taxes is easier than ever in 2009. With new improvements and enhancements to *e-file* there is no need to send those long paper forms to the IRS anymore.

Benefits of e-filing

e-file is growing in popularity each year with almost 90 million tax returns submitted electronically in 2008. It offers so many more benefits than filing with a paper return:

- It's convenient. You can access your previous year's return and copy duplicate information, such as your address, to a new form.
- It's more accurate. E-filed returns are less prone to errors since the software catches many mistakes, reducing the likelihood of follow-up correspondence from the IRS.
- It's quick. Refunds come in half the time as paper filing in as little as 10 days when you use Direct Deposit.
- It's safe. Electronic transmissions to the IRS are secure, using dedicated lines with the latest encryption technology.
- It's reassuring. After you e-file your return, you'll get an electronic acknowledgement that the IRS received it, typically within 24 hours.
- It's accessible. You can e-file your return 24-hours a day, 7-days a week.
- It can be free. Many tax software providers no longer charge extra for electronically filing your tax return. Be sure to shop around and look into software product offers.

e-file for Free

Now that you know the benefits of e-filing, how would you like to do it for free? Electronically preparing and filing your taxes can be free if you go to IRS.gov and select Free File. Free File now offers two completely free options to electronically prepare and file your tax return.

If your adjusted gross income was \$56,000 or less in 2008, you are eligible to electronically prepare and file your taxes at IRS.gov for free with Free File. Free File is a partnership with the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) a group of leading private-sector tax preparation software companies, called the Free File Alliance, Inc.,

Free File offers all the benefits of *e-file*. It is safe, easy to use and available in English and Spanish. Go to IRS.gov click on "Free File" and select a tax preparation company from the list. You'll be directed to their site to electronically prepare and e-file your return.

Or, if you don't qualify to use one of these products, Free File allows you to complete the basic IRS tax forms online and e-file your return - regardless of income.

This year, make tax season better by e-filing your tax return. And if you qualify for Free File, use it to save money. You'll help yourself, while enjoying its many benefits.