



How to Create an IRS Online Account

A Quick Guide

Creating an IRS Online Account is one of the easiest ways to securely access your federal tax information — no waiting on hold or for mail. Even if you don't owe money or expect a refund, it's smart to set one up before you need it.

What You Can Do With Your Account

Most people finish setup in about 10–15 minutes with everything ready. Once set up, you can:

- View your account balance
- Review your payment history
- Make payments to the IRS
- Access your tax transcripts
- View many IRS notices electronically
- Review payment plans & account details

Before You Begin, Gather:

- An email address you check regularly
- A government-issued photo ID (license, state ID, or passport)
- Your SSN or ITIN
- A smartphone or computer with a camera for identity verification

Start at the Official IRS Website

Always begin at irs.gov/account. Be cautious of emails, texts, or social posts claiming to link to your IRS account — the IRS generally doesn't contact taxpayers this way, and scammers often imitate IRS sites.

1. Go to irs.gov/account.
2. Click *Sign in to Your Online Account*.
3. Select *Create or sign in with ID.me*.

The IRS uses ID.me, a secure identity verification service, to confirm your identity. You may already have an account if you've used other government services (like Social Security).

Create Your ID.me Account

Already have an ID.me account? Just sign in. If not:

1. Click *Create an account*.
2. Enter your email and create a strong password.
3. Confirm your email with the six-digit code sent to your inbox.
4. Set up multi-factor authentication (like a text message code) for extra security.

Verify Your Identity

To protect you from identity theft, ID.me will ask you to:

- Upload a photo of your government-issued ID
- Take a quick selfie (smartphone or webcam)
- Enter your SSN or ITIN

Can't verify automatically? No need to panic — you'll have the option to finish verification during a brief video call with an ID.me rep. Have two acceptable ID documents ready.

Once verified, click **Allow** to securely share your info with the IRS. You'll be redirected straight to your IRS Online Account.

Signing In Later

1. Go to irs.gov/account.
2. Choose *Sign in with ID.me*.
3. Enter your email and password.
4. Complete multi-factor authentication.

You're all set! Explore your account so you know where to find things when you need them.

Frequently Asked Questions

Do I have to create an account?

No — it's optional, but it's the fastest way to access your tax info and records.

Is it free?

Yes. There's no charge to create or use your IRS Online Account.

Can my tax pro create it for me?

No. Identity verification means you must create it yourself — though your tax pro can help guide you.

What if I can't verify my identity?

You'll usually be offered a video call with an ID.me rep to finish verification.

What if I use assistive technologies?

There are compatibility issues with some assistive technologies. Refer to the IRS [accessibility guide](#) for help if you use a screen reader, screen magnifier, or voice command software.

Does an online account exist for business taxpayers yet?

Yes — sign in to [Business Tax Account](#).

Is online account available to international taxpayers?

Yes. This service can be used by individual taxpayers who have international addresses.

Need Help?

Questions or issues while setting up your account? Visit the IRS [help & resources page](#), or reach out to your tax professional for guidance.