# Findings From The Pre-Wave Of The *e-file* Advertising Tracking Study

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#### **Research Background & Purpose**

- Each year, the IRS and its advertising agency conduct tracking research to determine the impact of e-file advertising and communications on awareness of e-file.
- Previous waves of this research have been very narrowly focused on advertising awareness and recall, with no linkage to other research conducted for e-file. Specifically, compared to all other e-file surveys, the earlier waves:
  - Referred to e-file products differently (using different product names)
  - Asked awareness and usage questions differently.
  - And qualified respondents differently.
- As FCB began its work for IRS in 2002, it recommended (and IRS agreed)
  that this study should be modified and aligned with other e-file research
  studies so that advertising tracking could, for the first time, be fully
  integrated into the total e-file research program.



#### **Background & Purpose** (Cont'd.)

#### Among the changes made to the tracking study:

- The study was shifted to a <u>pre-post research design</u>, with one wave of research prior to the start of advertising and another after the end of advertising -- this to measure changes in the *e-file* situation that can be attributed to the annual advertising campaign.
- The new study now <u>qualifies respondents</u>, <u>refers to e-file products</u>, and <u>asks questions</u> in exactly the same way as all other e-file research studies.
- The study includes, for the first time, <u>an augment of Spanish-language Taxpayers</u>, to fill a gap in our understanding of the impact of *e-file* advertising on this segment.
- And, we can <u>now read results by all of the various segments</u> which are being analyzed in other e-file research (e.g., the attitudinal segments, the behavioral segments, V-coders, Quitters, etc.)
- Following is a brief report of the Pre-Wave of the new study. It focuses on results from this wave only, with no comparison to the earlier ad tracking research (since the study is now so fundamentally different from the previous waves). The report on the Post-Wave (at the end of May) will include detailed analysis of pre-to-post results, in total and by each of the various segments now included in the study.

#### **Research Methodology**

- Following is a summary of how the Advertising Tracking study is now being conducted...
  - It is conducted by <u>telephone</u> from RMR's national telephone interviewing facility in Wayne, NJ.
  - It includes a <u>nationally-representative sample of Taxpayers</u> age <u>18-65</u> who are <u>employed</u> and <u>filed taxes last year</u> (the same criteria as in other *e-file* studies). The sample is quota'd to assure that it represents the roughly 50/50 gender split of the Taxpayer population.
  - The <u>sample is drawn from an "RDD"("random digit dialing") list</u>, secured from Survey Sampling (the research industry's premier sampling house). An RDD list is used to assure that unlisted HHs as well as directory-listed HHs are included in the study.
  - The sample size in each wave is approximately <u>500 total random sample interviews</u> (507 in this Pre-Wave), with <u>Spanish-language Taxpayers augmented to assure a directionally readable sub-sample of 100 such Taxpayers</u> (the list for this augment is also secured from Survey Sampling and is based on their Spanish surname list).
  - Interviewing for the <u>Pre-Wave was conducted during the period of December 4 to December 15, 2002</u>, or approximately one month before the start of the new *e-file* advertising campaign. Interviewing for the Post-Wave will occur after the new *e-file* campaign ends in April.



## **Summary Of Results From The Pre-Wave**

Note: With only Pre-Wave data available at this point, this is simply a summary of *e-file's* position prior to advertising -- among the total sample and those segments (e.g., Type of Filer, V-Coders, Quitters, *e-file* Users and Non-Users, and Spanish-language) which can be identified without the benefit of the Taxpayer Attitudinal Tracking Study (which occurs later).

Detailed findings of advertising impact will be provided in the Post-Wave report, where we will have pre-to-post changes to analyze. The Post-Wave report will also include analysis of changes across all segments -- those mentioned above as well as the segments to be identified in the Taxpayer Attitudinal Tracking Study -- the technology segments and the attitudes toward *e-file* segments.

Statistical Note: a circle indicates that the data from a sub-group is significantly higher than the balance of the sample and a box indicates data that is significantly lower. One exception: Page 20, where a special statistical note at the bottom of the page details the statistical comparison.



## Filing Method Awareness & Usage



#### **Unaided (Voluntary) Awareness of** *e-file*

• In the Pre-Wave, "net" unaided awareness of any of the *e-file* filing methods was 82%, though awareness of specific methods was less than 50% in each case. Net unaided awareness was higher, naturally, among *e-file* Users, but notably low among the Spanish-Language segment (who also have lower awareness of the paper filing methods).

	Total <u>Taxpayers</u>	Self <u>Simple</u>	Self <u>Complex</u>	Paid Simple	Paid <u>Complex</u>	V- <u>Coders</u>	<i>e-file</i> Quitters	<i>e-file</i> <u>Users</u>	<i>e-file</i> Non <u>Users</u>	Spanish Lan- guage
Total Interviews	100% (507)	100% (81)	100% (108)	100% (109)	100% (197)	100% (153)	100% (76)	100% (204)	100% (303)	100% (100)
<b>Unaided Awareness Of</b>										
<u>e-file</u> (Net Mentions, Any Name)	<u>82</u>	<u>85</u>	94)	<u>74</u>	<u>79</u>	<u>75</u>	<u>80</u>	90	77	<u>57</u>
Elec. Filing Using A Tax Professional	48	40	51	46	53	43	46	57	43	37
On-Line Filing (Net)With On-Line CompanyWith Software	37 20 24	<u>43</u> 25 24	5 <u>4</u> ) 24 4 <u>1</u> )	28 16 14	32 17 21	35 15 26	34 16 22	3 <u>9</u> 23 24	36 18 23	26 17 12
TeleFile <i>e-file</i> (Unspecified)	20 15	35 15	28 20	15 15	12 12	16 12	28 20	21 15	19 15	9
Self-Prepared Paper Return	61	72	82	51	53	54	66	62	60	34
Paid Professional Paper Return	57	49	45	63	63	67)	54	46	64)	52

 $<sup>\</sup>mbox{Q.}\ 1$  -- Please describe all the methods of filing Federal income taxes that you can think of.



#### **Total Awareness of** *e-file* (**After Prompting**)

• Virtually all Taxpayers said they are aware of at least one of the *e-file* methods, with Electronic Filing Using A Tax Professional having the highest individual mentions (93% in total). Again, we see that awareness, even after prompting, is lowest among the Spanish-Language segment.

	Total <u>Taxpayers</u>	Self <u>Simple</u>	Self Complex	Paid <u>Simple</u>	Paid <u>Complex</u>	V- <u>Coders</u>	<i>e-file</i> Quitters	<i>e-file</i> Users	<i>e-file</i> Non <u>Users</u>	Spanish Lan- guage
Total Interviews	100% (507)	100% (81)	100% (108)	100% (109)	100% (197)	100% (153)	100% (76)	100% (204)	100% (303)	100% (100)
Total Awareness Of										
<u>e-file</u> (Net Mentions, Any Name)	<u>98</u>	<u>100</u>	<u>100</u>	94	100	<u>98</u>	<u>100</u>	100	<u>97</u>	89
Elec. Filing Using A Tax Professional	93	88	95	86	98	92	97	97	89	79
On-Line Filing (Net)With On-Line CompanyWith Software	<u>83</u> 62 70	<u>88</u> 64 74	94) 71) 88	73 61 54	<u>82</u> 57 70	84 59 73	<u>84</u> 58 72	<u>85</u> 66 73	<u>82</u> 59 69	<u>59</u> <u>44</u> 47
TeleFile <i>e-file</i> (Unspecified)	54 41	73 51	70 51	44 39	<u>42</u> 32	44 36	63 47	54 44	53 39	36 33
Self-Prepared Paper Return	94	99	100	91	93	94	95	94	95	76
Paid Professional Paper Return	98	99	100	96	99	100	100	97	100	95

Q. 1 -- Please describe all the methods of filing Federal income taxes that you can think of. (AND...)



Q. 3 -- Please tell me if you have ever heard of each of these methods of filing Federal income taxés.

#### **Methods Of Filing Ever Used**

• About half of the Pre-Wave sample claimed to have ever used (tried) *e-file*, with the Tax Professional method having highest trial, followed by On-Line Filing and then TeleFile. The Spanish-Language segment has had normal trial of the Tax Professional method, but lower than normal trial of On-Line Filing and TeleFile.

	Total <u>Taxpayers</u>	Self <u>Simple</u>	Self Complex	Paid <u>Simple</u>	Paid <u>Complex</u>	V- <u>Coders</u>	<i>e-file</i> <u>Quitters</u>	<i>e-file</i> <u>Users</u>	<i>e-file</i> Non <u>Users</u>	Spanish Lan- <u>guage</u>
Total Interviews	100% (507)	100% (81)	100% (108)	100% (109)	100% (197)	100% (153)	100% (76)	100% (204)	100% (303)	100% (100)
Ever Used										
<u>e-file</u> (Net Mentions, Any Name)	<u>55</u>	<u>63</u>	64	<u>56</u>	47	<u>26</u>	100	100	<u>25</u>	<u>49</u>
Elec. Filing Using A Tax Professional	36	21	19	(51)	43	16	59	67	15	39
On-Line Filing (Net)With On-Line CompanyWith Software	<u>20</u> 6 17	3 <u>2</u> 7 27	(47) (14) (40)	10 5 6	<u>6</u> 1 5	11 3 8	3 <u>0</u> 12 21	39 9 33	<u>8</u> 3 5	12 4 10
TeleFile <i>e-file</i> (Unspecified)	11 8	26 17	(17) (14)	7 5	<u>5</u>	5	29 16	(18) (15)	7	6 8
Self-Prepared Paper Return	66	93	92	43	54	55	80	67	65	35
Paid Professional Paper Return	67	35	38	80	88	88	75	49	78	68

 $Q.\ 5 -- \ And \ which of the following \ methods of filing \ Federal \ income \ taxes \ have \ you \ ever \ used?$ 



#### **Method Of Filing Used Last**

• 40% of the Pre-Wave sample claimed to have *e-filed* their tax return during the past tax season. This is slightly higher than the 36% who we know did *e-file*; however, we are not weighting data in the Ad Tracker (as in other studies), since we will not be able to weight the Post-Wave (in April-May, when there will not be final 2003 *e-file* usage data to use for weighting).

	Total <u>Taxpayers</u>	Self <u>Simple</u>	Self Complex	Paid <u>Simple</u>	Paid <u>Complex</u>	V- <u>Coders</u>	<i>e-file</i> <u>Quitters</u>	<i>e-file</i> <u>Users</u>	<i>e-file</i> Non <u>Users</u>	Spanish Lan- guage
Total Interviews	100% (507)	100% (81)	100% (108)	100% (109)	100% (197)	100% (153)	100% (76)	100% (204)	100% (303)	100% (100)
Last Used										
<u>e-file</u> (Net Mentions, Any Name)	<u>40</u>	<u>49</u>	<u>43</u>	<u>41</u>	<u>34</u>	0	0	100	0	<u>35</u>
Elec. Filing Using A Tax Professional	23	0	0	<u>41</u> )	34)	0	0	<u>56</u>	0	26
On-Line Filing (Net) With On-Line Company With Software	12 2 11	26 4 22	37) (7) (31)	0 0 0	0 0 0	0 0 0	0 0	31) 5) 26	0 0 0	<u>5</u> 1 4
TeleFile e-file (Unspecified)	3 3	(11) (12)	3 3	0	0	0	0 0	6 7	0	1 3
Self-Prepared Paper Return	21	(51)	<b>(57)</b>	0	0	16	45	0	34	15
Paid Professional Paper Return	39	0	0	59	67	84)	(55)	0	66	50

Q. 6 -- Which method did you use for filing your Federal income taxes in (last tax season)?



#### **Method Of Filing Taxpayers Would Recommend**

• 63% of Taxpayers in the Pre-Wave said they would recommend at least one of the *e-file* methods to a friend. Note the much lower 49% of Spanish-Language Taxpayers who would recommend *e-file*. This will be an interesting measure for pre-post comparison in the Post-Wave report on the entire study.

	Total <u>Taxpayers</u>	Self <u>Simple</u>	Self Complex	Paid <u>Simple</u>	Paid <u>Complex</u>	V- <u>Coders</u>	<i>e-file</i> <u>Quitters</u>	<i>e-file</i> <u>Users</u>	<i>e-file</i> Non <u>Users</u>	Spanish Lan- guage
Total Interviews	100% (507)	100% (81)	100% (108)	100% (109)	100% (197)	100% (153)	100% (76)	100% (204)	100% (303)	100% (100)
Would Recommend										
<u>e-file</u> (Net Mentions, Any Name)	<u>63</u>	<u>70</u>	73	<u>60</u>	<u>57</u>	42	76	93	43	<u>49</u>
Elec. Filing Using A Tax Professional	40	25	26	51	48	32	50	60	27	39
On-Line Filing (Net) With On-Line Company With Software	<u>28</u> 11 24	37 11 31	(49) (17) (43)	17 12 12	20 8 18	20 9 18	33 12 26	39 14 34	2 <u>1</u> 9 18	13 8 10
TeleFile <i>e-file</i> (Unspecified)	15 14	22 17	21 19	16 13	9	14 11	28 18	15 16	15 13	8 12
Self-Prepared Paper Return	34	38	<b>(53)</b>	22	30	33	49	23	<u>(41)</u>	25
Paid Professional Paper Return	50	30	28	<u>59</u>	67	73	<u>61</u>	32	63	54

Q. 7 -- And which of these methods of filing Federal income taxes would you recommend to a friend?

### Advertising Awareness, Recall & Reaction



#### **Unaided (Voluntary)** *e-file* **Advertising Awareness**

• 18% of the Pre-Wave sample had voluntary claimed unaided awareness of *e-file* advertising during the past six months. We will track this in the Post-Wave to see changes in this key measure from pre-to-post.

	Total <u>Taxpayers</u>	Self <u>Simple</u>	Self Complex	Paid <u>Simple</u>	Paid <u>Complex</u>	V- <u>Coders</u>	<i>e-file</i> <u>Quitters</u>	<i>e-file</i> <u>Users</u>	<i>e-file</i> Non <u>Users</u>	Spanish Lan- guage
Total Interviews	100% (507)	100% (81)	100% (108)	100% (109)	100% (197)	100% (153)	100% (76)	100% (204)	100% (303)	100% (100)
Unaided Aware Of Advertising For										
<u>e-file</u> (Net Mentions, Any Name)	<u>18</u>	<u>12</u>	<u>20</u>	<u>19</u>	<u>17</u>	<u>20</u>	<u>12</u>	<u>20</u>	<u>17</u>	<u>23</u>
Elec. Filing Using A Tax Professional	9	6	5	14)	10	10	9	11	8	10
On-Line Filing (Net)With On-Line CompanyWith Software	<u>7</u> 3 4	<u>7</u> 3 5	<u>9</u> 3 7	4 4 0	<u>7</u> 3 5	<u>7</u> 3 5	1 0 1	<u>8</u> 3 5	<u>5</u> 3 3	<u>8</u> 5 3
TeleFile <i>e-file</i> (Unspecified)	1 4	1 1	1 7	2 4	1 3	1 4	3	1 3	2 4	1 5
Self-Prepared Paper Return	1	0	0	2	2	2	1	1	1	2
Paid Professional Paper Return	6	9	5	6	6	6	7	7	6	4

 $Q.\ 2 -- And\ for\ what\ methods\ of\ filing\ Federal\ income\ taxes\ have\ you\ seen\ or\ heard\ any\ advertising\ in\ the\ past\ 6\ months?$ 



#### **Total** *e-file* **Advertising Awareness (After Prompting)**

• After prompting with the names of all the various filing methods, total claimed P6M (past 6 months) awareness of *e-file* advertising was 27%. Again, we will compare the same measure in the Post-Wave to see what changes if any occur as a result of the new ad campaign.

	Total <u>Taxpayers</u>	Self <u>Simple</u>	Self Complex	Paid <u>Simple</u>	Paid <u>Complex</u>	V- <u>Coders</u>	<i>e-file</i> <u>Quitters</u>	<i>e-file</i> <u>Users</u>	<i>e-file</i> Non <u>Users</u>	Spanish Lan- guage
Total Interviews	100% (507)	100% (81)	100% (108)	100% (109)	100% (197)	100% (153)	100% (76)	100% (204)	100% (303)	100% (100)
Total Aware Of Advertising For										
<u>e-file</u> (Net Mentions, Any Name)	<u>27</u>	<u>20</u>	<u>29</u>	<u>32</u>	<u>27</u>	<u>28</u>	<u>21</u>	<u>30</u>	<u>25</u>	35
Elec. Filing Using A Tax Professional	17	15	12	20	18	18	17	18	16	22
On-Line Filing (Net)With On-Line CompanyWith Software	<u>16</u> 8 13	<u>15</u> 6 14	22 6 19	15 11 10	15 8 12	17 8 13	11 1 11	<u>18</u> 8 15	15 8 12	<u>15</u> 7 10
TeleFile e-file (Unspecified)	4 7	4 5	3 9	6 8	3 5	3 6	7 4	3 7	4 6	7 11
Self-Prepared Paper Return	6	5	6	10	5	5	4	5	6	<u>(14)</u>
Paid Professional Paper Return	14	15	14	22	10	13	13	15	14	24)

Q. 2 -- And for what methods of filing Federal income taxes have you seen or heard any advertising in the past 6 months? (AND...)



Q. 4 -- During the past 6 months, have you seen or heard any advertising for (each filing option)?

#### Message Recall From e-file Advertising

• Claimed recall from *e-file* advertising at this point centers around the ease/convenience benefits of *e-file*, with most other mentions related to "how to *e-file*/ways to *e-file*". We will get into this measure in more detail after the campaign to determine what Taxpayers take away from the new advertising. There will also be Post-Wave probes on recall of specific elements of the campaign.

Total Aware Of <i>e-file</i> Advertising	Q.12Main <u>Message Recall</u> 100% (138)	7.12+Q13 Total Message Recall 100% (138)
That e-file is easy/convenient (Net) That it's easy/convenient (Unspecified) That it's fast/quick to file this way That it results in faster/quicker refunds That it results in instant refunds That it's simple	38 21 9 4 1	49 11 13 13 17 3
Ways to e-file/how To e-file  You can e-file (Unspecified) You can file electronically You can e-file with a tax professional You can file on-line You can do it yourself That there is software for doing taxes That you can use the computer to file	18 7 5 3 2 3 2	31 9 7 4 3 3 2 7
That it eliminates paperwork That it's accurate/reliable/results in fewer mistakes	4 1	3 8

Q. 12 -- What do you think was the one main message that this advertising was trying to get across to you? (AND...)

∩ 12±∩13

Q. 13 -- Now please tell me everything that you recall about the advertising.

Note: The 138 base size is too small for analysis beyond "total".

#### e-file Advertising Sponsor Attribution

 When we asked Taxpayers at this point who sponsored the advertising they claimed to recall, only 19% mentioned the IRS. About two-thirds attributed their awareness to advertising by H&R Block and other tax preparation services.

Total Aware Of <i>e-file</i> Advertising	<u>Total</u> 100% (138)
Total Who Recalled The Sponsor Of The e-file Advertising Being	
The Internal Revenue Service/IRS	19
Someone Other Than IRS (Net)	<u>64</u>
H&R Block Tax Preparation Service	48
Jackson-Hewitt Tax Preparation Service	4
Some Other Tax Preparation Service	17
No Recall Of Sponsor	23

Q. 14 -- Do you recall who sponsored this advertising -- was it...(READ ALL ABOVE CHOICES EXCEPT "NO RECALL")?

Note: The 138 base size is too small for analysis beyond "total".

#### e-file Advertising Source Attribution

• Those claiming awareness of *e-file* advertising attributed it mainly to TV, followed by Radio, the Internet, Newspapers, and Direct Mail.

	tal / that e of e ///e / tavel to sing	(138)
<u>Tc</u>	otal Who Claimed To Have Been Exposed To The e-file Advertising Via	
	TV	64
	Radio	24
	Internet	16
	Newspapers	14
	Direct Mail From IRS	10
	Direct Mail From Tax Professional	8
	Magazine	8
	Direct Mail From Credit Card Company	3
	Billboards	1
	Via Tax Prep Software Package That Was Purchased	1
	Somewhere Else	4
	Don't Recall	5

Q. 15 -- And where did you see or hear this advertising?

Total Aware Of *e-file* Advertising

Note: The 138 base size is too small for analysis beyond "total".

Total

100%

#### **Taxpayer Reaction To The** *e-file* **Advertising**

• We also asked Taxpayers claiming *e-file* ad awareness to rate their reaction to the advertising across a battery of attributes similar to that used in viewer response profiling. Shown below are the top-box (agree completely) and top-2-box (agree completely/somewhat) ratings of the ads they claimed to have seen prior to the new *e-file* campaign. In the Post-Wave, we will compare these ratings to those we find then for the new campaign.

	Total Agree <u>Completely</u>	Total Agree Completely/ <u>Somewhat</u>
Total Aware Of <i>e-file</i> Advertising	100% (138)	100% (138)
Total Agreeing That The e-file Advertising Was		
Positive Feedback		
The advertising was <b>informative</b>	23	66
The advertising gave me useful information	19	62
The advertising gave me a good idea	17	54
The advertising was <b>memorable</b>	15	47
The advertising told me something new	15	38
The advertising <b>held my attention</b>	9	45
The advertising was <b>unique</b>	9	31
The advertising was <b>entertaining</b>	7	25
Negative Feedback		
The advertising was <b>boring</b>	16	44
The advertising was <b>confusing</b>	3	12

Q. 16 -- Please tell me if you agree completely, agree somewhat, disagree somewhat, or disagree completely that the statement describe the advertising. Note: The 138 base size is too small for analysis beyond "total".

# Impact Of Advertising On IRS & *e-file*Brand Image & Personality

Note: the technology attitudinal ratings and psychographics which are a part of the technology segmentation planned for use in the Post-Wave are not shown in this report, since the Attitudinal Tracking Study (and not the Ad Tracking Study) is the appropriate vehicle for analyzing these ratings and hasn't yet been conducted. However, we do show (in the next section) the image and personality ratings of *e-file*, since we may see pre-to-post differences in the ratings of individual attributes that are due to the new advertising campaign.



#### **Pre-Wave** *e-file* **Image Ratings**

• Each wave of the study will include image ratings of *e-file*. We will conduct a pre-to-post comparison of these ratings after the Post-Wave to see what if any changes in *e-file* image are generated by the new campaign. Here, we are looking at ratings among all Taxpayers in total and by sub-group; in the pre-to-post comparison, we will focus on these "total" data as well as the adaware sub-group.

Total Interviews	Total Taxpayers 100% (507)	Self Simple 100% (81)	Self Complex 100% (108)	Paid <u>Simple</u> 100% (109)	Paid Complex 100% (197)	V- <u>Coders</u> 100% (153)	e-file Quitters 100% (76)	<i>e-file</i> <u>Users</u> 100% (204)	Non <u>Users</u> 100% (303)	Lan- <u>quage</u> 100% (100)
Agree Completely/Somewhat That										
Filing taxes is something that nobody likes, but everybody has to do	92	91	94	86	93	90	93	91	92	89
e-file is a faster way to get your return to the IRS	79	77	82	80	79	79	84	<b>85</b>	75	84
e-file is a faster way to get your refund	72	75	76	73	69	67	78	(85) (83)	65	73
e-file is an accurate way to file taxes	72	72	82	70	70	68	80	(83)	64	71
IRS is becoming friendlier, more helpful	62	67	67	64	55	61	70	66	59	(70)
e-file is a private/secure way to file taxes	61	65	70	54	60	50	62	(78)	50	64
e-file is a better way to file your taxes	59	63	63	58	56	45	65	<del>78</del>	46	70
e-file is an inexpensive way to file taxes	57	56	69)	52	56	46	55	(68)	50	51
Mailing in your return is still safer, more reliable	54	59	44	65)	51	<u>63</u>	59	36	(66)	(65)
e-file is easy to use, with little hassle	54	62	58	60	46	37	55	(76)	39	(64)
e-file provides proof of receipt	50	54	60	51	44	36	55	(71)	37	53
Used to doing taxes on paper/no reason to change	42	42	37	42	44	<u></u>	45	15	(60)	(56)
e-file changes the way you look at the IRS	33	38	32	<b>45</b>	27	28	41	41	28	<u>49</u>

Q. 17 -- Please tell me whether you agree completely, agree somewhat, disagree somewhat, or disagree completely with each statement.



#### Comparison Of Personality Ratings Of *e-file* And The IRS

• In each wave, we split the sample and ask half to think of *e-file* as a person and tell us what they feel are the personality traits of *e-file*. The other half do the same exercise for IRS so that we can compare the two. As shown below, *e-file* and the IRS have sharply different personality profiles. In the Post-Wave, we will look at the impact of the new campaign on both profiles.

Total Rating Each (Split Sample)	Ratings Of <i>e-file</i> 100% (251)	Ratings Of <b>IRS</b> 100% (256)
Total Agreeing That e-file/IRS Is		
Up-To-Date/Modern Dependable Helpful Someone You Can Trust Interesting Creative Confident & Outgoing A Leader A Friend Easy-going & Laid Back High-strung and Uptight Masculine Someone You Need To Be Wary Of Boring Difficult A Follower Feminine Old Fashioned	9 79 78 66 65 65 67 7 26 37 36 32 29 23 16 9	63 66 59 48 41 48 54 48 25 13 (2) (3) (3) (6) 23 11 (4) 10
Shy & Introverted	9	10

Q. 18a. -- Please think of e-file as a person...



Q. 18b. -- Please think of IRS as a person...

Note: Circle here indicates  $\emph{e-file}/IRS$  is significantly higher in mentions of specific traits.

#### **Other Measures**



#### **Filing Behavior**

• We also ask a series of questions about when Taxpayers file and why. Similar questions in the Attitudinal Tracking Study (later this Winter) will be used to develop a segmentation based on filing behavior/timing. The non-segmented results from these questions are shown on this and the following page for information purposes only.

Total Interviews	Total <u>Taxpayers</u> 100% (507)	Self <u>Simple</u> 100% (81)	Self Complex 100% (108)	Paid <u>Simple</u> 100% (109)	Paid <u>Complex</u> 100% (197)	V- <u>Coders</u> 100% (153)	e-file Quitters 100% (76)	<i>e-file</i> <u>Users</u> 100% (204)	<b>e-file</b> Non <u>Users</u> 100% (303)	<b>Spanish</b> Lan- <u>guage</u> 100%  (100)
Q.11aWhen Typically File								_		
As Soon As You Get W-2 Forms	43	<u>59</u>	30	46	42	37	49	49	39	38
When You Get Around To It (Jan-Apr)	34	27	33	40	32	35	40	30	36	38
As Late As Possible, But Not Last-Minute	10	7	17)	2	12	12	7	10	10	11
At The Last Possible Minute	10	5	15	10	10	12	5	8	11	13
Timing Varies Year to Year	3	1	5	1	3	2	0	3	3	0
No Answer/No Recall	1	0	1	1	1	1	0	1	1	0
Q. 11bMonth Typically File										
January	17	(30)	14	21	12	13	(26)	17	17	14
February	36	44	23	39	37	32	37	(43)	31	33
March	22	12	20	19	27	23	16	20	23	26
April 1-15	18	11	(33)	15	15	21	15	16	20	20
After April 15	3	0	4	0	6	5	1	2	4	2
Month Varies Year to Year	3	1	5	5	2	4	3	2	4	2
No Answer/Don't Know	2	1	1	2	2	2	3	2	2	3

#### Filing Behavior (Cont'd.)

Total Interviews	Total <u>Taxpayers</u> 100% (507)	Self <u>Simple</u> 100% (81)	Self Complex 100% (108)	Paid <u>Simple</u> 100% (109)	Paid <u>Complex</u> 100% (197)	V- <u>Coders</u> 100% (153)	e-file Quitters 100% (76)	e-file Users 100% (204)	<b>e-file</b> Non <u>Users</u> 100% (303)	<b>Spanish</b> Lan- <u>guage</u> 100% (100)
Q. 11cWhy Typically File Then										
Like to get it done ASAP	29	43	22	33	25	26	37	30	28	23
Usually get refund, so want money ASAP	17	17	18	21	15	16	18	20	15	16
Busy, get to it when I can during season	13	11	16	12	12	14	12	13	13	21)
Depends on when I get to see preparer	9	4	5	6	16	12	8	7	11	8
Have to wait for paperwork	9	5	10	6	10	8	4	8	9	5
I'm a procrastinator/do things at last minute	6	5	8	6	5	4	7	7	5	9
Usually owe \$, so wait til late to keep money	6	4	12	3	7	9	4	4	8	6
Get refund, depend on it/have plans for it	3	0	3	6	3	3	4	3	3	4
Dread doing taxes so I put it off	2	4	1	1	2	1	3	3	1	4
Like being among the last to file/it's an event	1	1	0	1	1	1	0	0	1	0
Other reasons	8	6	6	12	9	7	4	9	8	5

#### **Other Filing Measures**

Other filing questions are also asked, with results from the Pre-Wave sample shown below. Most
notable in these results is something we have found in earlier e-file research: that the bulk of VCoding occurs among Preparers and not among Taxpayers completing their own returns. We will
check this finding in the larger-sample Attitudinal Tracking Study.

Total Interviews	Total Taxpayers 100% (507)	Self Simple 100% (81)	Self Complex 100% (108)	Paid Simple 100% (109)	Paid Complex 100% (197)	V- <u>Coders</u> 100% (153)	e-file Quitters 100% (76)	<i>e-file</i> <u>Users</u> 100% (204)	<i>e-file</i> Non <u>Users</u> 100% (303)	Spanish Lan- <u>quage</u> 100% (100)
Q.8a-1% Who Are V-Coders	51	12	29	55	71)	100	53	0	51	52
Q.8b% Balance Due Last Year Q.8b% Received Refund Last Year	18 75	14 79	26 66	11 80	20 75	22 69	21 74	12 81	22 70	14 68
New Base: Balance Due	100% (91)	100% (11)	100% (28)	100% (12)	100% (40)	100% (33)	100% (16)	100% (25)	100% (66)	100% (14)
Q.8c% Of BalDue w/Auto Withdrawal	10	9	11	17	8	3	6	28	3	7
New Base: Receive Refund	100% (379)	100% (64)	100% (71)	100% (87)	100% (147)	100% (106)	100% (56)	100% (166)	100% (213)	100% (68)
Q.8c% Of Refunds TA Direct Deposit	38	50	<b>63</b>	34	24	25	45	54)	26	28
New Base: State Offers Fed-State <i>e-filing</i>	100% (108)	100% (19)	100% (34)	100% (24)	100% (29)	100% (12)	100% (11)	100% (77)	100% (31)	100% (21)
Q.8g-2% With Fed-State <i>e-file</i> Option Who Used the Option	41	58	35	42	38	0	0	<b>57</b>	0	29

#### **Demographic Summary**

• Finally, following is a demographic profile of the Pre-Wave sample and some of the segments we will be following during Ad Tracking. Analysis of demographics will be used primarily to see the comparability of the Pre- and Post-Wave samples. Detailed demographic profiling of all segments will be conducted based on the larger-sample Attitudinal Tracking Study.

Total Interviews	Total <u>Taxpayers</u> 100% (507)	Self Simple 100% (81)	Self Complex 100% (108)	Paid Simple 100% (109)	Paid <u>Complex</u> 100% (197)	V- <u>Coders</u> 100% (153)	e-file Quitters 100% (76)	<i>e-file</i> <u>Users</u> 100% (204)	e-file Non <u>Users</u> 100% (303)	Spanish Lan- guage 100% (100)
Q. BGenderMale Female	50 50	56 44	47 53	51 49	50 50	48 52	41 59	54 46	47 53	51 49
Q.20Average HH Size (Mean)	2.9	2.6	3.0	3.0	2.9	3.0	3.1	3.0	2.9	3.6
Q. 21% With Children	45	36	47	51	44	41	42	<u>52</u>	40	66
Q. 22% Married	61	44	73	44	71)	68)	63	57	64	58
Q. 23% With College Education	64	61	82	47	68	68	65	64	64	35
Q. 24% Median HH Income	53	43	66	33	67)	<b>62</b> )	<u>59</u>	50	55	30