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## Cybersecurity Tip of The Week- 1/29/19

### **New Year = More Scams & Fraudulent Phone Calls 44.6% of calls in 2019 are expected to be fraudulent!**

*The IRS phone scam, lottery winnings, delinquent bills and more are all tactics that have been used as ruses by fraudsters to get personal information from you over the phone. Now, fraudsters are pretending to be calling from the Social Security Administration (SSA) in attempt to gain their victims' social security number (SSN) or money. These most recent calls contain a message from a person telling you that your SSN has been suspended due to suspicious activity or because your SSN has been part of a crime.*

*The scammers are also spoofing the phone numbers from where the caller is supposedly calling from (IRS, Social Security, your state's tax commission, etc.), making the caller ID appear to be from the entity these fraudsters are attempting to imitate.*

*Four of the nation's major wireless carriers have added defenses to try to reduce the amount of scam calls, such as the fraudulent calls about a compromised social security number. Some of these added methods are free, while others are a small subscription fee each month. Visit your wireless phone carrier's website or call them for more information on your options.*

*Be aware that scam calls are happening more frequently, and **if a caller is asking for personal information it's best to hang up and call the entity back. Use a number for the entity you get from other sources and not the number the caller gives you.** Once you have determined a call is likely fraudulent, the best defense is to not engage the caller in conversation and hang up.*

***Think Before You Answer!***