



JULIE P. MAGEE
Commissioner

State of Alabama Department of Revenue

(www.revenue.alabama.gov)
50 North Ripley Street
Montgomery, Alabama 36132

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MICHAEL E. MASON
Assistant Commissioner

JOE W. GARRETT, JR.
Deputy Commissioner

CURTIS E. STEWART
Deputy Commissioner

Dear Taxpayer,

The Alabama Department of Revenue considers the security of the information that the citizens of Alabama have entrusted us with to be our top priority. With that in mind, we constantly review our systems and policies and continue to strengthen our already secure information environment. This is a team effort, and as a valued member of this team, you will play an important role in our new defense against criminals.

The rise in security breaches to various systems around the globe and the accompanying rise in identity theft have forced us to further secure our online taxpayer portal that you know as MyAlabamaTaxes (MAT). While MAT is already a secure system, we feel that boosting that security will give you an extra level of comfort that we are indeed protecting your data. You can help through a security method we are implementing called Two Channel Authentication.

What is Two Channel Authentication (TCA)? TCA refers to the use of two authentication mechanisms to log in to a secure system, where the mechanisms may be the same but are retrieved from different locations. Currently, MAT requires a web logon and password combination for a user to log in. In addition to the logon/password, we will implement a second authentication mechanism on MAT which will require users to also enter an authentication code to log in. MAT users will have the option of receiving the authentication code via SMS text message or email.

The authentication code will verify the device through which you are accessing MAT – in other words, let MAT know that this device and Web browser are being used by the proper taxpayer. You may check a “Trust This Computer” box, which will enable MAT to recognize the device and Web browser combination for future logons. This means the additional authentication process won’t be necessary again on that device. If you attempt to access MAT from another device or Web browser, then the authentication code will be sent to the contact method you set up earlier.

The Alabama Department of Revenue will convert existing MAT logons to Two Channel Authentication sometime after July 25, 2015. Effective July 25, any newly created MAT logons will default to TCA.

We’ll send additional information in the coming weeks to help implement this procedure with as little inconvenience to you as possible. We hope that you understand and agree with us that this change is necessary in today’s increasingly challenging security environment. Should you need any assistance or have questions regarding this change, please do not hesitate to contact us at 334-353-0030.

Sincerely,

Julie P. Magee
Commissioner
Alabama Department of Revenue