Internal Revenue Service (IRS)

Timeline of Attacks

- **February 11, 2025:** The administration issued the "Workforce Optimization Initiative," mandating a "1-to-4" hiring ratio and requiring the IRS to develop a reduction in force (RIF) plan.
- **February 13, 2025:** DOGE operative Gavin Kliger, a 25-year-old software engineer, entered IRS headquarters and was given access to the agency's Integrated Data Retrieval System (IDRS).
- **February 17, 2025:** DOGE staffers reached an agreement to gain limited "read-only" access to anonymized taxpayer data within the IRS.
- **March 13, 2025:** Acting Chief Counsel William Paul was removed and demoted after clashing with DOGE over the sharing of sensitive taxpayer data. He was replaced by Andrew De Mello.
- **July 18, 2025:** The Treasury Inspector General for Tax Administration revealed a dramatic shrinking of the IRS workforce from roughly 103,000 staffers in January 2025 to 77,428 as of May 2025.

Impacts on Capacity

The 25% reduction in the IRS's total workforce has rendered the agency a "zombie" of itself at best, and a "feast for wealthy tax evaders" at worst. By ousting nearly a third of the agency's auditing workforce—especially those focused on auditing the ultra wealthy—DOGE has effectively granted corporate criminals a reprieve from paying taxes.

The DOGE-induced degradation of the IRS's operational capacity is likely to be especially noticeable during the 2026 tax season. To maintain current levels of service for the upcoming filing season, the IRS would have needed to hire over 11,000 customer service employees, a task rendered impossible by the DOGE-mandated cuts.The implementation of Trump's One Big Beautiful Bill Act would require the IRS to update forms and programming systems at the same time its technical and support staff are being purged.

Material Harms

The realignment of the IRS under DOGE has led to the weaponization of taxpayer data and financial losses caused by misinformation.

DOGE leaders floated the idea of a "DOGE Dividend"—a payment of up to $5,000 to be distributed to taxpayers from the "savings" generated by government cuts. The "DOGE Dividend" has yet to materialize, but it *has* created an opening for scammers to take advantage of the confusion and prey on the public.

What's more concerning however, is the way DOGE has sought to weaponize taxpayer data. Historically, the IRS has guarded taxpayer information to ensure that all residents, regardless of immigration status, feel safe participating in the voluntary tax system. But on April 7, 2025, the IRS agreed to share names, addresses, and tax data for individuals under final orders of removal or under criminal investigation for immigration violations. By August 2025, the IRS had disclosed tens of thousands of records to ICE, despite warnings from internal legal counsel that the deal likely violated federal privacy laws. The use of IRS data to target specific populations sets a dangerous precedent for using the tax system as a tool of political or administrative retribution against any group of citizens.

Devastating the auditing capacity of the IRS did benefit some groups, however: private equity and venture capital firms. Under the Biden administration, the IRS began auditing firms in these massive industries to uncover the various tactics they were using to avoid billions in taxes. It was working. With DOGE cuts, however, audits have dropped by "80 or 90 percent," potentially leaving billions upon billions of dollars of tax dollars in the pockets of private corporate behemoths.

The loss of these audits is indicative of DOGE's project at the IRS: decimate the ability of the government to investigate tax cheats while normal people lose valuable tools like DirectFile.

Notable Names

Ousted Leadership

- **Melanie Krause:** Chief Operating Officer and Acting Commissioner who resigned in May in protest of IRS' data-sharing agreement with ICE.
- **Traci Di Martini:** Head of human resources at IRS was ousted in March 2025 for informing employees that firings within the agency were authorized by the DOGE-controlled Office of Personnel Management.

DOGE Agents

- **Gavin Kliger**
- **Samuel Corcos**