

## What is an EIN?

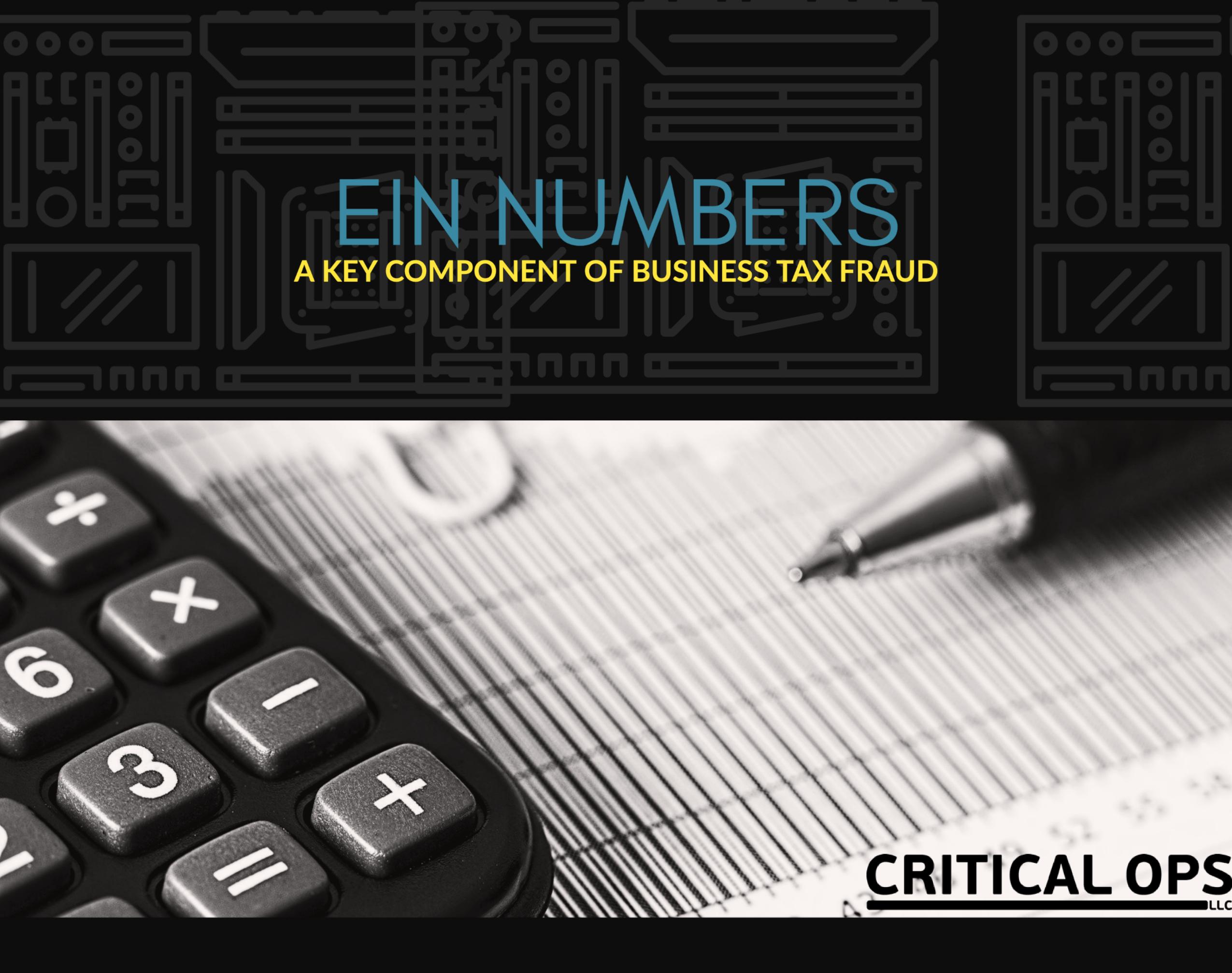
An <u>Employer Identification Number</u> (EIN) is also known as a Federal Tax Identification Number and is used to identify a business entity. It is in essence like a business's SSN, except for the fact that it is available to the public.

Access to EIN's is quite simple. They can be found through local or federal registration forms, business credit reports, and payroll or accounting departments.

## EIN Fraud

With access to an EIN, a falsified return can be filed. The IRS does not begin to receive and match employer-reported wage and withholding information until after the January 31st W-2 deadline. This enables criminals to get away with stolen funds prior to anyone's knowledge of the incident.

In the <u>2011</u> tax year, TIGTA discovered 767,071 e-filed individual tax returns with fraudulent refunds from falsely reported wages and withholdings using 277,624 stolen EINs.



## Suspect Tax Fraud?

- <u>Determine</u> who needs access to the company's EIN.
- Start with a police report.
- File a formal affidavit.
- <u>Report</u> suspected identity theft through the IRS's business helpline at 800-829-4933.
- Email dataloss@irs.gov to notify the IRS of a suspected data breach.
- Notify affected clients and partners.
- Place a fraud alert on a business credit report.