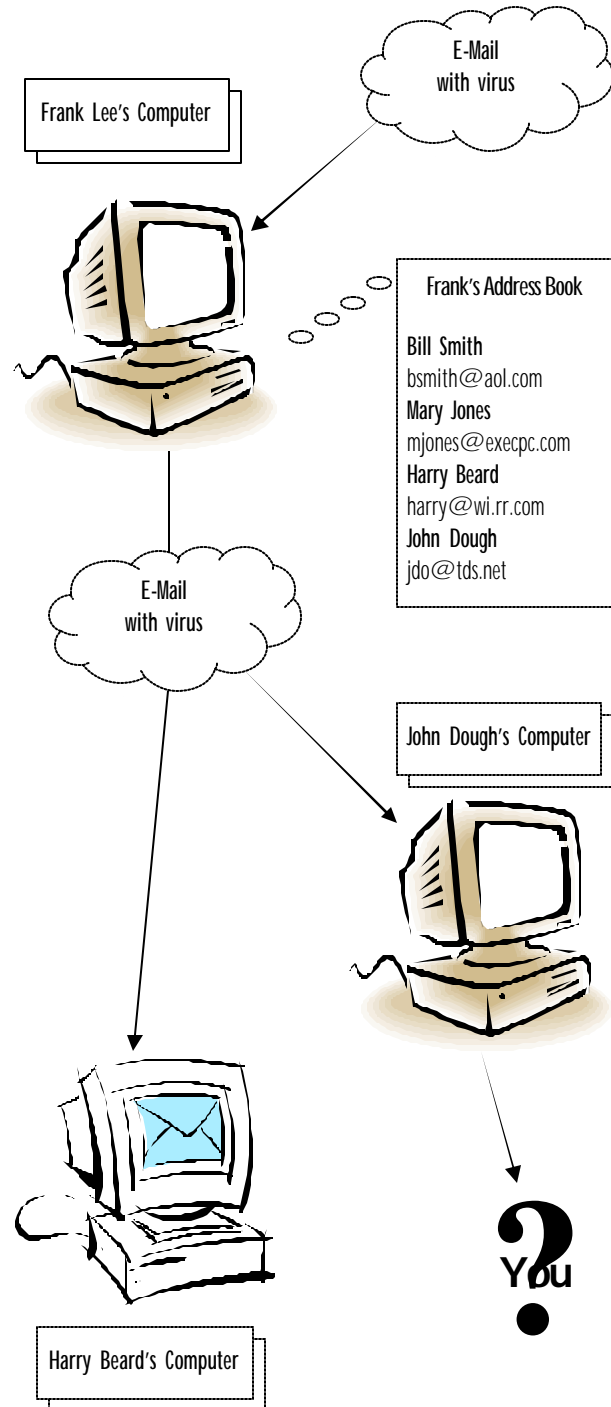


Why did you send me a virus?

How viruses use spoofing to spread themselves to unsuspecting e-mail users

1. Frank Lee gets an e-mail that appears to come from a co-worker. Frank sees that there is an attachment with the e-mail and doesn't think twice before clicking on the attachment. The file opens up but it doesn't make any sense so he just deletes the whole message. Incidentally, Frank's been so busy lately that he hasn't had time to update his antivirus software.
2. Without Frank's knowledge, the virus sends itself to people in his address book and 'spoofs' one of the addresses as the sender.
3. John Dough gets an e-mail from his friend Mary Jones (Mary's name has been "spoofed" from Frank's computer, even though she knows nothing about the message). Because John trusts his friend Mary, he opens the attachment. John hasn't updated his antivirus software either so now his computer is infected and the virus uses his address book to start the whole process again.
4. Harry Beard gets the same message from Mary but he recognizes the suspect attachment because the file name ended with '.exe' so he simply deletes the message along with the attachment. No harm is done and the virus is stopped.



Poor Mary; within her circle of friends she is getting blamed for sending them a virus when in fact it's actually Frank that is the culprit. This story is true but the names have been changed to protect the innocent.