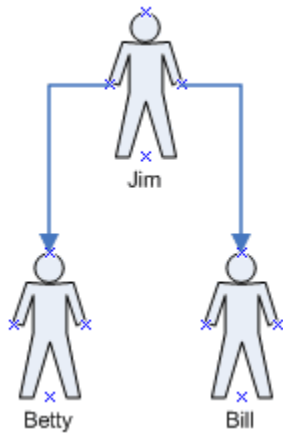


How Email Viruses Work



Jim: No anti-virus software.
Knows both Betty and Bill.

Betty: Has anti-virus
software. Knows only Jim.

Bill: Has anti-virus software.
Knows only Jim.

Jim: No virus protection. Friend of Betty and Bill.

Betty: Friend of Jim. Has virus protection

Bill: Friend of Jim but does not know Betty. Has virus protection.

1. Jim opens up an email from someone other than Betty or Bill and opens an attachment.
2. The attachment is a virus that creates a new email like the following:
 - a. **From:** Bill
 - b. **To:** Betty (and everyone else in Jim's email address book except Bill)
 - c. **Subject:** <random subject>
 - d. **Body:** <random body>
 - e. **Attachment:** <a copy of the virus using a random file name>
3. The virus then sends email.
4. Betty receives the email (with the infected attachment) that appears to be from Bill
5. Betty's virus protection software warns her that the attachment is infected and takes appropriate action.
6. Betty contacts Bill and tells him he has a virus on his system.
7. Bill tells Betty that his virus protection software is up to date and that his PC can't be the source.
8. Jim seems to think his PC is running slow. He can't find anything wrong and the virus just continues to send out emails.

