

# I didn't send you an email virus or did I? "Spoofing"

Frequently, a virus will spread itself by auto-generating email. These types of viruses infect a computer and begin generating email using the address book on the infected machine to populate both the sender's name and the recipient's name. The ability of the virus to randomly generate a sender's name is referred to as "spoofing". The owner of the actual sending machine may not even be aware that his/her machine is infected. The Jacksonville ISD computers have virus protection that should not allow this type of email virus. If someone else questions you on why they received an email from you that you didn't send, it's because your address was in an address book on someone's computer out on the Internet and their virus was the cause. **There is nothing you can do about that type of situation.**

JISD software monitors all inbound and outbound email traffic between the district and the Internet. Emails are checked for matching virus "signatures" against a continually updated database of thousands of known viruses. If the file being scanned is virus-free, the email and any attachments are delivered to the intended recipient. If a virus is found, the infected email is normally deleted and a separate email from the JISD EmailManager with *From: "LUISA Administrator"* with the *Subject: ALERT - An email you sent contained a possible virus* is sent to the intended recipient. The notification contains information about the infected email including its date, sender's and recipient's names, and the action taken by the scanning software when the email arrived. This notice does not contain the virus.



## Example of How Spoofing Viruses Work

**John** opens an email attachment from someone he does not know. **John's** computer is now infected with a mass-mailing worm.

**The** mass-mailing worm creates a new email and searches John's computer for email addresses.

**The** worm finds email addresses for Carla (cbird@xyzisd.net) and John (jdoe@javaisd.edu) on John's computer and then inserts Carla's email address into the "From" field of the message, and John's email address into the "To" field.

**The** worm then attaches itself to the email message and sends it to John.

**When** John receives the message, his antivirus software tells him the message is infected with a virus.

**Then** John contacts Carla, because her email address is in the "From" field, and complains that she sent an email with a virus.

**When** Carla scans her computer with her antivirus software, no virus is detected.

**This** is because her computer does not have the virus, and she did not send the message to John.

