

Improve the learning experience of students and employees by using the IMS ePortfolio specification.

What is an ePortfolio?

ePortfolios are collections of personal information about a learner that represent accomplishments, goals, experiences, and other personalized records that a learner can present to schools, employers, or other entities. Typical uses of ePortfolios go beyond the traditional concept of a transcript to include applying for jobs, designing personalized learning, and tracking career planning.

What is the ePortfolio Specification?

An open specification developed with international input, The IMS ePortfolio Specification, is available at:

<http://www.imsglobal.org/ep/>

More Information

To learn more about the IMS ePortfolio Specification, visit:
<http://support.imsglobal.org/eportfolio>

You will find links to the specification documents and can join a discussion group about implementing the specification in organizations and products.

Background

IMS specifications are developed with participants representing government agencies, higher education, content providers, and application vendors worldwide.

About IMS

The IMS Global Learning Consortium develops and promotes the adoption of open technical specifications for interoperable learning technology. IMS specifications and related publications are made available to the public at no charge from
<http://www.imsglobal.org>

No fee is required to implement the specs. To join IMS and participate in developing e-learning specifications, visit:
<http://www.imsglobal.org/membership.cfm>

Copyright © 2004 by IMS Global Learning Consortium, Inc. All Rights Reserved.

The ePortfolio Advantage



The ePortfolio Specification enables the use of the Internet for personalized, competency-based learning and assessment, enhanced career planning, and improved employment opportunities.



For more information visit:
<http://support.imsglobal.org/eportfolio>

■ Specification Benefits

- **Improve Interoperability**
Support the transfer of learner products, materials, and records between portfolio systems and organizations.
- **Track and improve management of skill and knowledge gaps**
Improve learner satisfaction and motivation through personalized learning and assessment; enable instructors to tailor courses to learners; allow employers to hire and train more effectively.
- **Support multiple languages and cultures**
- **Support lifelong learning**
Capture outcomes and feedback from formal and informal learning (e.g., from hobbies, travel, clubs) throughout life.
- **Save money and time**
Build procurement and product plans more quickly and with less risk by using a no-cost, internationally-developed specification.
- **Increase participative learning**
Encourage learners to take more responsibility for their own learning and management of the evidence of learning.
- **Support accessibility preferences for all learners**
- **Support individual and group based learning**

■ Supported ePortfolios

The specification provides for import and export of portfolios. It supports many kinds of portfolios, including:

Assessment ePortfolios

Demonstrate achievement to some authority by relating evidence within the ePortfolio to performance standards defined by that authority. *Example: A nursing student submits an assessment portfolio as evidence of a specific competency requirement.*

Presentation ePortfolios

Present an audience with evidence of learning and achievement. *Example: a software engineer creates a presentation ePortfolio that shows relationships between professional certifications she has received, code she has written, and employment history.*

Learning ePortfolios

Document, guide, and advance learning over time. *Example: a secondary school student develops a learning ePortfolio that allows him to reflect upon how technology skills improve over the course of a year.*

Personal Development ePortfolios

Record learning and performance that can be reflected on, outcomes of that reflection, and future development plans.

Working ePortfolios

Combine elements of all the above types and can include multiple views of each.

■ Specification Overview

What does the specification enable?

Import and export of parts of, whole, and collections of electronic portfolios.

What can an ePortfolio contain?

- Digital products of learning
- Personal information about the owner(s)
- Competencies of the owner(s)
- Goals
- Activities undertaken or planned
- Achievements
- Accessibility preferences
- Interests and values
- Reflections
- Assertions and comments
- Test and examination results
- Information about activities undertaken and planned
- Information about creation and ownership of portfolio parts
- Relationships between parts of the portfolio
- Dynamically-constructed views and presentations

■ Future Directions

- Compliance program
- Automating exchange of ePortfolios (i.e., Web Services)
- Incorporation into corporate and human resources standards and activities