

**Title of Session:** e-Portfolios  
**Moderator:** BJ Berquist  
**Title of File:** 20081218eportfolio  
**Date:** December 18, 2008

Room: ePortfolio Group

**BillBe** joined the room.

**BJB2** waves hi again to Bill

**BJB2:** Hopefully, Lynne will be here shortly.

**BillBe:** made it

**BJB2** . o O ( She did let me know that she's having bad weather and may not be able to log in... )

**BJB2:** if that's the case, I'll tap dance for you :-)

**BillBe:** I'll be sure to be watching

**BJB2** grins.

**BillBe:** do you have a bunk in there?

**BJB2:** yep....a nice bed in my office

**BillBe:** good thing

**BJB2:** I can show you how to join this group while we wait, Bill

**BJB2** . o O ( scroll down on the welcome note above this chat to This is the group room for ePortfolios and click on the green i in that sentence )

**BillBe:** done

**BJB2:** then click on Room View at the top of your screen to get back to the welcome screen

**BillBe:** not many other members here this time

**BJB2:** no, people seem to be going into holiday mode a little earlier this year

**BJB2** . o O ( for many reasons )

**BJB2:** there was one other new member who was going to join us...

**BillBe:** it's not that late yet

**BJB2:** she logged in and then either lost her connection or changed her mind

**BJB2:** yep. I'm hoping she comes back.

**BJB2:** You've participated in the ePortfolios discussions before?

**BillBe:** nope

**BJB2:** ahhhh....then I suggest you take a look at the stuff on the welcome screen

**BillBe:** everything on TI is new to me

**BJB2:** how exciting!

**BJB2 . o O** ( I still feel that way after almost 11 years )

**BJB2:** do you have an idea of what an eportfolio should be?

**BillBe:** would you please tell me how to get back to 'welcome'?

**BillBe:** uh, just found it

**BJB2:** do you see Room View at the top of your screen?

**BJB2 . o O** ( that happens to me all the time too! Especially in a store when I ask for something I can't find )

**BillBe:** it's the best way of finding something!

**BJB2** smiles and nods

**BJB2:** I would think that an eportfolio for your clients would consist of digital stories, blogs, and positive personal sales pitches

**BillBe:** really difficult to say--even getting them to do an ordinary portfolio is quite difficult

**BJB2:** what would you consider an 'ordinary' portfolio?

**BillBe:** I have worked mainly with 40+ people in the 'lower' socioeconomic ranks

**HeidiMe** joined the room.

**BillBe**: paper in plastic envelopes

**BJB2**: yay! You made it back, Heidi!

**HeidiMe**: yay! I figured out how to do it

**BillBe**: hurrah

**HeidiMe**: I'm beginning to believe there's a reason I need to prove I can use technology, haha

**BJB2**: Heidi, meet Bill. Bill, meet Heidi. How about if you two introduce yourselves?

**BillBe**: hi, Heidi

**BillBe**: couldn't resist doing that

**BJB2** . o O ( where you are, what you teach/do, and what interest you have in ePortfolios )

**HeidiMe**: hi! I'm a 22 y.o. grad student doing my MS Ed.

**HeidiMe**: I'm studying Career and Technical Education, specifically Agricultural Ed. and I'm working on my ePortfolio

**BillBe**: I'm a 61-year-old career developer

**HeidiMe**: it's due tomorrow at 9, in fact

**BillBe**: oh dear

**BillBe**: I hope it's almost finished

**HeidiMe**: yeah, but this is part of the requirement for me to complete it

**BJB2** chuckles. Good thing you get a transcript of this chat, Heidi!

**HeidiMe**: yeah, I just have to do a few more artifacts

**BillBe**: so BJ and I are artifacts

**HeidiMe**: haha, indeed

**BJB2**: so the thing you two have in common is careers

**BillBe:** I've always thought so

**BJB2** winks at Bill. We're a lot older than Heidi, too.

**HeidiMe:** haha

**BillBe:** a yawning gulf

**BillBe:** I have a long background in IT

**BJB2:** here's the perfect opportunity for your discussion, Heidi

**BillBe:** I would like to see if i can support people with no real it skills to build ePortfolios

**HeidiMe:** I'm sure you can

**BJB2** . o O ( Lynne Wolters is not able to join us tonight because of the weather )

**HeidiMe:** we've been using Nvu/Kompozer

**BillBe:** has it cut power to her office?

**HeidiMe:** because of the cost (free)

**BillBe:** I know that program

**BJB2:** no, but she has to travel to a computer

**HeidiMe:** although I've been told in the past they used Dreamweaver with more success

**BJB2:** can you tell me more about the program, Heidi. I'm not familiar with it

**HeidiMe:** Nvu is very buggy, kompozer is somewhat better

**BillBe:** a lot more complicated, bigger learning curve

**HeidiMe:** yeah that's what I hear

**HeidiMe:** Nvu is basically WYSIWYG (I think that's right!)

**BillBe:** that's right

**HeidiMe:** it's a lot like formatting on Word

**BillBe:** yup

**HeidiMe:** so it's easier for people to pick up because it's familiar

**HeidiMe:** most of the web design has been tables

**BillBe:** it seems more difficult to make programs like Kompozer that do the HTML the modern way

**HeidiMe:** I've just decided to keep mine as simple as possible in order to have the smallest opening for disaster/confusion on my part

**BJB2:** <http://www.net2.com/nvu/>

**HeidiMe:** is that why they haven't come out with new editions?

**BillBe:** dunno

**BJB2:** <http://kompozer.net/>

**BJB2** . o O ( for the transcript )

**BillBe:** sometimes developers simply become bored

**BJB2:** or underfunded

**HeidiMe:** yeah I'll bet

**HeidiMe:** so, I have a question, are electronic portfolios very common in education programs? Since I have limited experience with other programs I'm not sure

**BJB2:** who is paying for the development?

**BillBe:** of kompozer?

**HeidiMe:** I guess no one if it's a free program

**BJB2:** Heidi, ePortfolios are becoming more popular....

**BJB2:** and many make use of web 2.0 tools and multimedia

**BJB2** . o O ( lots of artifacts ;- )

**HeidiMe** ) haha, thank you very much

**BJB2:** they also provide opportunities for reflective writing to demonstrate learning...like blogs

**HeidiMe:** oh wow

**BJB2:** Tapped In is free and it costs a bundle! It was originally funded by the National Science Foundation

**HeidiMe:** ours are static, but it would be really cool to have a dynamic component like a blog during student teaching

**BJB2** nods to Heidi.

**BJB2:** the main issue as I understand it is who 'owns' the portfolio

**HeidiMe:** good point, I guess I forgot that nothing's really "free"

**BillBe:** there are some learning managements systems that include blogging facilities

**BJB2:** and how is the portfolio accessed once the person leaves the institution

**BJB2** nods to Bill

**HeidiMe:** well, I know mine is hosted by my school, but I'd like to think it's my intellectual property!

**BillBe:** I've been assuming that people build eportfolios on neutral territory

**BJB2:** how will you access your portfolio when you graduate, Heidi?

**HeidiMe:** they haven't told us how long they will host it for

**BJB2** nods solemnly...something to consider.

**BJB2:** and...

**HeidiMe:** it's going to stay hosted and available

**BillBe:** even faculty members do not necessarily own the products of their researches

**BJB2:** when you have completed your formal education, does that mean you stop learning and growing?

**HeidiMe:** but I don't know after that date what happens

**HeidiMe:** certainly not

**BJB2** . o O ( shouldn't your portfolio reflect this growth and learning? )

**HeidiMe:** yeah, it should, definitely

**BJB2:** I would hope that a portfolio would be a living document that follows you throughout your career

**BJB2:** Bill, if your clients have computer access, you might want to set up a group for them in Tapped In...

**HeidiMe:** yeah, I hope to make it that way

**BJB2:** it's a great way to start them on the journey of communication.

**BillBe:** thank you, will discuss with the powers that be

**BJB2:** and it would be a safe and structured environment

**BillBe:** I have many masters

**BJB2** nods to Bill....as do all educators

**BJB2:** Heidi, any comments, questions?

**HeidiMe:** don't you think that the depth and breadth of things you learn is too big to have a portfolio?

**BJB2** waits to be dazzled by Heidi's tech expertise ;-)

**BillBe:** it hasn't been for some of us

**BJB2:** ahhhh....good one, Heidi. What do you think, Bill?

**HeidiMe:** sometimes I feel like the things on mine don't communicate nearly enough of what I've learned

**BJB2:** you also have to consider your audience, Heidi.

**BillBe:** all fooling aside, that's true. There's the problem of somehow projecting oneself

**HeidiMe:** yeah I guess the point is to concentrate on what's most important for my objective

**BillBe:** I have had huge problems with that coming from IT

**BJB2:** your portfolio is being prepared for an authentic audience

**BJB2** . o O ( who have the attention spans of gnats )

**HeidiMe:** haha

**BJB2:** so what do you think is the most important feature that a portfolio needs to illustrate?

**BillBe:** do you have the concept of stories in eportfolios somewhere?

**BJB2** . o O ( and is this for a teacher, an admin, a student, etc? )

**HeidiMe:** there's a part for my reflections on my experience in the journey to become an educator

**BJB2:** Bill, look at the links that Lynne has under Featured Items on the welcome screen above this chat

**HeidiMe:** my portfolio's main objective is to market me for jobs

**BJB2** nods to Heidi. That's probably what Bill is seeking for his clients as well.

**BillBe:** although it could be a nightmare to build an ePortfolio might have several paths through it

**BJB2:** take a look at the whiteboard on the welcome screen too: A symphonic eportfolio is a whole of life online reflection process that enables the young and not so young to create their own digital footprint. -CaroleMc

**HeidiMe:** yeah I would think so

**BillBe:** any examples of symphonic eportfolios?

**HeidiMe:** yeah, I'm not quite sure what that means

**BJB2:** I am assuming that would be multimedia

**HeidiMe:** I see

**HeidiMe:** thanks

**BJB2** . o O ( as in a symphony is composed of many elements, sounds, emotions )

**BillBe:** it also sounds a good way of exploring themes, and so on, in one's life

**BJB2** smiles...cool, Bill



**BillBe:** that could be really, really useful in a careers setting

**HeidiMe:** I like it

**BillBe:** who is Carole Mc?

**BJB2:** sometimes the electronic part of the portfolio is intimidating....

**BJB2:** Carole is a TI member

**HeidiMe:** yes it is

**BillBe:** thanks

**BJB2:** . o O ( lives in Australia, I think )

**BillBe:** we need some software tools specially built for the job--open source would be best

**BJB2:** but you can gather artifacts that are not electronic and compile them....and perhaps scan them into a slide show or ppt

**HeidiMe:** what does open source mean?

**BJB2:** Anyone can use/recreate the technology

**BillBe:** open source means that programmers can see and change the computer code in the program to advance it

**BJB2:** Tapped In is open source, actually. If you wanted to create your own version of Tapped In you could get the codes

**HeidiMe:** oh, okay! thanks, I've always wondered that

**BJB2:** <http://tappedin.sourceforge.net/>

**BJB2:** the main obstacle is that you need to be pretty comfortable with code

**BillBe:** it should be possible for somebody to copy an image and then just paste it into his ePortfolio without knowing anything about why that should work

**BJB2:** . o O ( personally, I think it's smarter to use Tapped In and let them do the maintenance and updates! )

**BillBe:** what's it written in?

**BJB2:** dunno....it's at <http://tappedin.sourceforge.net/>

**BillBe:** an idle question!

**BJB2:** web 2.0 allows a lot of that wysiwyg cut and paste stuff, Bill

**BillBe:** just what I was thinking

**BJB2:** flicker

**BJB2:** most blogs let you add photos and sound files...as do wikis

**BillBe:** need something like iGoogle or Netvibes and some additional widgets for things that people would want to add to an ePortfolio

**HeidiMe:** I'm going to admit this Tapped In site is pretty cool, although at first I found it super confusing

**BJB2** nods to Heidi

**HeidiMe:** I wish there were more people on here

**BillBe:** I think it's the first intros that put a lot of people off things

**BJB2** . o O ( one of the reasons we do regularly scheduled tours )

**HeidiMe:** currently!

**HeidiMe:** oh, that's cool

**HeidiMe:** yeah the front desk part was very helpful!!!

**BillBe:** this is a friendly site, that's for sure

**BJB2:** Heidi, take a look at the internal calendar....click on the Tapped In tab at the top of your screen and then click on calendar in the blue menu bar

**BJB2:** you'll see that the internal calendar is set to your time zone

**BJB2:** Tips and Tricks are the tours

**BJB2:** Tapped In is a community, and as a community we all work together and collaborate

**BillBe:** Heidi, are there any items you've wanted to add to your eportfolio and couldn't?

**HeidiMe:** no, most of it is documents

**HeidiMe:** it's a very simple site

**HeidiMe:** probably not very exciting

**HeidiMe:** I'm not a technological genius, unfortunately

**HeidiMe:** pictures, powerpoints, word docs

**HeidiMe:** everything I use in teaching

**BillBe:** maybe it doesn't seem exciting because it's your life

**BJB2** smiles

**HeidiMe:** haha, very true

**HeidiMe:** I'm desensitized I reckon

**BillBe:** what do the things you use tend to be like?

**BJB2** . o O ( tend to use in the classroom? )

**BillBe:** wish I'd said that

**BJB2:** just trying to clarify the question, Bill

**BillBe:** I know and I'm glad you did

**HeidiMe:** well, to be honest with you I try to not use PowerPoints in the class because I think I use it as a crutch and it keeps me from moving around the classroom

**HeidiMe:** and at my student teaching site we don't have a projector set up

**HeidiMe:** but that may change when I get my own classroom

**BillBe:** if you need some free time you can use it to put your class to sleep

**HeidiMe:** I do a lot of hands-on stuff

**HeidiMe:** yeah exactly

**HeidiMe:** so I'm going to try to get as many pictures as possible of my activities to use in the student teaching part of the portfolio

**BJB2:** do you have the students work in small groups? in large groups?

**HeidiMe:** both, really

**BillBe:** pictures could reinforce the way you're seen

**BJB2:** what are employers looking for in high school graduates? Do they need to know all the details of a job?

**BJB2** . o O ( or do they need to know how to learn new ways to do things )

**BJB2:** can your students problem solve?

**HeidiMe:** I think they look for people who are willing to learn

**HeidiMe:** good point, I see what you're saying

**BJB2:** what about project based learning?

**BJB2** . o O ( there is a PBL discussion in January in Tapped In )

**HeidiMe:** I'm v. interested in implementing it

**BJB2:** and there is a Global PBL group you can join and look at the resources they already have

**HeidiMe:** in January I'm going to start taking over more of my cooperating teacher's classes

**HeidiMe:** so that's good timing

**HeidiMe:** I'll have to join it

**BJB2:** you have your hands full, I'm sure, Heidi.

**BJB2:** the first couple of years of teaching are the hardest...

**HeidiMe:** I do, but unfortunately I'm going to have to go and try and empty them a little bit by putting the finishing touches on this portfolio!

**HeidiMe:** yeah, my friend is doing NYC teacher's fellowship

**HeidiMe:** and she is super stressed

**BJB2:** just learning basic classroom management, meeting administrative requirements, planning lessons

**HeidiMe:** hopefully my kids are going to be a little easier than hers

**HeidiMe:** yeah

**HeidiMe:** quite the learning curve, right?

**BJB2:** just remember that Tapped In is here to offer support...

**BJB2:** and a shoulder to cry on if you need it ;-)

**HeidiMe:** haha! thanks, I will remember that

**HeidiMe:** thank you both for your time, my portfolio and I thank you!!!

**BJB2:** I taught for 24 years and each year was a new adventure

**HeidiMe:** oh dear, I'm sure

**BJB2:** that's what keeps your teaching fresh and your students engaged

**HeidiMe:** hopefully I'll talk to you again soon. :)

**HeidiMe:** oh engagement

**HeidiMe:** the e word!!!

**HeidiMe:** haha

**BJB2:** thanks for joining the discussion, Heidi and for joining Tapped In

**HeidiMe:** no problem!

**HeidiMe:** goodnight!!!

**BJB2** . o O ( you were engaged in the discussion )

**BJB2** waves goodnight

**HeidiMe:** HAHA

**HeidiMe:** nice

**BillBe:** take care, guys

**HeidiMe:** night

**BJB2:** Any last comments, Bill?

**BillBe:** none, except thank you both

**BJB2:** my pleasure. Glad you were here to add to our resource of artifacts ;-)

**BillBe:** I'm quite an old one--therefore to be highly prized

**BJB2** nods solemnly

**BillBe:** see ya later

**BJB2** . o O ( I won't tell you I'm older ;- )

**BillBe:** oh, it's pretty obvious

**BJB2** laughs. Thanks!

**BillBe:** mwahahah

**BillBe:** Best of the Season!

**BJB2:** you too, Bill!

**BJB2:** have a safe one