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From the Gartner Report: Hype Cycle in Higher Education, 2011

#### E-Portfolios

***Analysis By:*** Ron Bonig

***Definition:*** E-portfolios are Web-accessible repositories for student work, both graded and ungraded, which may be shared with authorized parties.

***Position and Adoption Speed Justification:*** E-portfolios have begun to move toward the mainstream, as standards and security issues are resolved by institutional policies and improved technologies. In their current incarnation, e-portfolios have a place in many institutions, but adoption is still hampered somewhat by interoperability issues. Besides the standard issue about what metadata standards to apply, there is also the more deep-rooted problem of who owns and supports the portfolio, especially in the context of lifelong learning, multiple institutions and multiple employers. Until megavendors, such as Microsoft and Google (or even Facebook), enter the market and offer lifelong services in the form of cloud e-portfolios (similar to their healthcare initiatives, but far less contentious), this issue is not likely to be solved, and e-portfolios will experience a limited uptake relative to the grand vision that started the movement. A partnership between SunGard Higher Education and Epsilen may help to advance the adoption of e-portfolios, at least across the large SunGard customer base.

***User Advice:*** E-portfolios are moving from limited-access projects to institutionwide applications. Security and reliability, as well as the validity of student-entered data, are still concerns. However, policies and flags are being established to define content that is certified by the institution as valid. To prepare for a future of greater interoperability and extended use cases of e-portfolios through either federated or cloud solutions, institutions must evaluate the standards supported, especially from an import/export perspective.

***Business Impact:*** Affected areas inside the institution include instruction, collaboration, assessment and student services. Areas outside the institution are potentially many, affectingstudent and faculty mobility, employee skill scouting, and employer searches.

***Benefit Rating:*** Moderate

***Market Penetration:*** 5% to 20% of target audience

***Maturity:*** Early mainstream

***Sample Vendors:*** ePortaro; Epsilen; McGraw-Hill; Nuventive; Open Source Portfolio Initiative (OSPI); TrueOutcomes