Purpose:

For my Final Project, I will be creating my e-Portfolio for the IT Master’s Program. This website will contain course artifacts, field experiences, and reflections that demonstrate the knowledge and skills I have developed as a student in the IT Master’s Program. The website will be reviewed during my last semester by advisors and/or instructors in the IT Master’s Program in the College of Education at The University of Akron to determine if I have met the graduation requirements in order to receive a Master’s degree.

The goals of this website will be as follows:

1. to provide a web-based environment where I can showcase the technology skills and knowledge that I have developed through coursework and field experiences
2. to provide reviewers of my e-Portfolio website with a rich, multimedia experience with images, audio, and video the enhance the quality of the website and illustrate my creativity and web development skills
3. to create a professional website that conveys to reviewers that I am serious about using technology in a responsible way and have the skills needed to be successful in integrating technology into a learning environment
4. to provide a resource for future IT Master's Program students to use to assist in the development of their own e-Portfolio websites and to other students and educators ideas for integrating technology

Needs Assessment:

In order to determine the needs for my e-Portfolio website, I reviewed several resources that I found within Springboard and reviewed the content and layout of other e-Portfolios that previous IT Master’s Program students have created. First, I located and read over the e-Portfolio requirements that were included in the Final Project section of our Multimedia class site. From this document, I learned about the different sections that I need to include in my e-Portfolio website and how I need to align my course artifacts and field experience work with the NETS-TF standards. Second, I read and reviewed the Capstone e-Portfolio Rubric on the IT Master’s Portal website to learn what kind of web experience I need to design in order to earn a quality portfolio score. Third, I have reviewed other e-Portfolios done by previous students in the Hypermedia/Multimedia class. I did an advanced Google search for assignment pages done by previous students. Even though some of the websites were not yet complete, they gave me ideas for how to construct my own website, such as color schemes, layout, and ways to add multimedia. I contacted one of those students, Mrs. Greenlief, who teaches eighth grade math at Barberton Middle School. I have subbed there on many occasions, tutored some of her math students for the OAA, and completed a class project for my Philosophy class with her students. She will be a wonderful resource to ask questions about developing my own e-Portfolio. In addition, I found that one of the video or Flash files on her website didn’t work right, so I let her know about it. This discovery reminds me to check all of my files on my website to make sure that they work right.
I will not graduate until Spring 2014, but I want to get started on creating my e-Portfolio website, so that I can just add content to it as I complete my courses and field experiences. I thought about creating a website for a friend who is a classroom teacher or a website that my students at Sylvan could use, but I ultimately decided that I should use that website as one of my field experiences rather than the final project for this class.

**Audience:**

There are several types of users that will be able to access this website. First, the initial users of this website will be faculty and staff from the College of Education to determine whether or not my e-Portfolio meets the requirements for graduation. Second, other users of this website will be prospective employers (principals, human resource personnel, etc.) in the K-12, higher education, or corporate arenas. These users will use the website to learn about my technology knowledge and skills and be more informed about the abilities that I would bring as a prospective employee. Third, other potential users of the site will be teaching colleagues and friends who want to learn more about my technology skills, ways to use technology in their own classrooms, or how to create their own e-Portfolio websites. I would like to share my website with other teachers. Fourth, other IT Master's program students will be able to access the website and get more ideas about developing their own e-Portfolios and possible ideas for field experiences they can complete.

**Content/Subject and its fit with web site goals:**

The content of the website will include coursework artifacts from the IT Master’s courses that I have taken, field experience artifacts from work that I have done on campus, in a K-12 classroom, in my tutoring work at Sylvan, and possible in the community. I will also include a short reflection with each of the field experiences, following the correct format that Dr. Tsai has provided us (Description, Impact, and Intent). My coursework and field experiences will give me the chance to showcase my technology skills and abilities with a wider audience than I would be able to do in person. In addition, I will include multimedia products (images of field experiences, audio clips of teaching, short video clips of training workshops that I might conduct) to help the users of my website have a more accurate understanding of what I have done as an IT Master’s student at UA. Even though I don’t know exactly what these multimedia products will be, my hope is that they will add to the professionalism of my website and help users of the website learn more about me. This website will also include a personal biography, my technology vision statement, and a current copy of my resume. It will also include contact information, so that future IT Master’s students would be able to contact me with questions about my e-Portfolio.

**Presentation of information:**

The website will have the following pages:

- Home Page - the words “Nicholas Martin’s e-Portfolio” across the top, a horizontal navigation bar with tabs to the other pages, brief biographical and educational information, self-intro audio file with control bar, table of contents menu along the side, professional-looking photo of myself, contact information at bottom of page
Leadership – the words “Leadership” in a heading at the top of the page, short description of what it means to me to be a technology leader, possibly incorporating NETS-TF standards language; image (clip art with proper source) related to page
  - Horizontal Line
  - Left Side of Page – links to course artifacts (documents, images, multimedia files, etc.) accompanied by brief descriptions of how the artifact relates to leadership
  - Right Side of Page – links to field experience artifacts (documents, images, multimedia files, etc.) accompanied by brief descriptions; links to reflections for each field experience (with Description, Impact, and Intent for each one)

Teaching and Learning - the words “Teaching and Learning” in a heading at the top of the page, short description of what it means to me to be able to use technology as a powerful tool for teaching and learning, possibly incorporating NETS-TF standards language; image (clip art with proper source) related to page
  - Horizontal Line
  - Left Side of Page – links to course artifacts (documents, images, multimedia files, etc.) accompanied by brief descriptions of how each artifact relates to teaching and learning
  - Right Side of Page – links to field experience artifacts (documents, images, multimedia files, etc.) accompanied by brief descriptions; links to reflections for each field experience (with Description, Impact, and Intent for each one)

Design and Development - the words “Design and Development” in a heading at the top of the page, short description of what it means to me to design and develop instruction using technology, possibly incorporating NETS-TF standards language; image (clip art with proper source) related to page
  - Horizontal Line
  - Left Side of Page – links to course artifacts (documents, images, multimedia files, etc.) accompanied by brief descriptions of how each artifact relates to teaching and learning
  - Right Side of Page – links to field experience artifacts (documents, images, multimedia files, etc.) accompanied by brief descriptions; links to reflections for each field experience (with Description, Impact, and Intent for each one)

Professional Development - the words "Professional Development" in a heading at the top of the page, short description of what it means to me to be able to learn more about technology from my peers and colleagues, possibly incorporating NETS-TF standards language; image (clip art with proper source) related to page
  - Horizontal Line
  - Left Side of Page – links to course artifacts (documents, images, multimedia files, etc.) accompanied by brief descriptions of how each artifact relates to teaching and learning
  - Right Side of Page – links to field experience artifacts (documents, images, multimedia files, etc.) accompanied by brief descriptions; links to reflections for each field experience (with Description, Impact, and Intent for each one)
Resume Page – current resume will be attached to this page as a PDF file, so that it will be easy to download for prospective reviewers; link to the Home Page and the other pages

Rationale for organization:

I chose to organize my information in this matter (in particular, the sequence of pages on the site) because that is the required e-Portfolio format as stated in the instructions on the IT Master’s Portal website. I chose the horizontal navigation bar with tags for each page, so the website would be easy to navigate from one page to the next. There would always be a way for users to return to the Home Page or visit any other page in the e-Portfolio site. The individual pages within the website will have a similar color scheme, font style, and overall appearance, so it has a cohesive and professional look.

Media, acquisition or development, and rationale for using:

I will include digital images, digital audio, digital video, and possibly Flash animation in the website. I will take pictures or videos of my field experiences using my digital camera. If I give a training session of workshop, I can include some of the instructional materials that I have developed, as well as images or videos taken by peers or colleagues who are attending the workshop. One of my audio files will be my self-introduction on the Home Page, and I will also include images of the course modules that I am creating within Springboard as part of my graduate assistantship. I plan to also include images of a websites or wiki that I plan to create for a current K-12 teacher and audio/video clips of me describing to students how to use a certain technological tool and instructions for completing a project where technology is integrated. If I am using images, audio clips, or videos of any K-12 students, I will need to check the students’ acceptable use policies and make sure that their parents have given permission for their pictures or work to be shared on the Internet.

I want to make sure that any media that I use on my website is not too extravagant that it would not distract from the website, but complement or add to its overall purpose. I want to keep the website professional, but still add personal touches. I can accomplish these personal touches through the use of colors and fonts that I like the most.

Color scheme and rationale:

Since this is a professional website, I do not want to use any extremely bright, extravagant colors. I would like to use black text on a white background. I would like to use navy blue or forest green as the color for the page headers on the top of each page, with white text that gives the name of each page. For the headings within the page, I would use navy blue or a maroon color. I feel that green and maroon compliment each other well. These are samples of colors that I would like to use on the website:
Outline of web site organization:

The following is a graphic organizer illustrating how the pages within the website will be organized:

All pages within the website will feature a horizontal navigation bar across the top of the page to make it easy to navigate. Users of the website will be able to access any page in the site no matter what page they are currently visiting. My models for this navigation bar are the CNN.com homepage and the ESPN.com homepage.

There will also be a Table of Contents on the Home Page with the same listing of pages within the site. Whenever I am looking at a website in my personal time, I always prefer to have multiple points of access to information I am looking for or pages I am trying to find. In addition, I feel that new users of a website might not necessarily know where to find the information they want, so giving users more than one link to find information only makes the site more user-friendly. Prospective employers would not want to waste time looking for information or artifacts within my e-Portfolio.