



ABOUT FIVE POINTS CAPITAL

Five Points Capital is a Winston-Salem, North Carolina-based private equity firm founded in 1997 that has raised over \$1.7 billion in committed capital to date. The firm invests in lower middle-market companies across multiple strategies including debt and equity co-investments and control buyouts.



THE CHALLENGE

- Speed up data entry process
- House cash flow and portfolio data all in one place
- Automate report generation



THE SOLUTION

- Use Cobalt's portfolio monitoring platform to streamline operations
- Access net cash flow data in real-time
- Standardize report creation from custom Excel template



THE RESULTS

- Generated most-used reports, like quarterly investment, automatically
- Minimized data entry responsibilities
- Built deeper level of trust with investors

How Five Points Capital Assesses the Exposure and Returns of a Complex Portfolio with Cobalt Portfolio Monitoring

Private equity firm saves multiple days' worth of work each quarter with streamlined data ingestion and automatic report generation.

THE CHALLENGE

Data management practices done exclusively through Excel caused many issues for Five Points Capital's 30 employees: time-consuming data entry, cumbersome data access, and a lack of data centralization.

The firm used a large file known as "the master model," to track both the cash flow data for their funds and information on each of the firm's portfolio companies. The static spreadsheets were far from a comprehensive database, so Five Points Capital employees needed to build reports from scratch for every presentation. With data stored in many different places, they had to create a new version every quarter, where associates spent valuable time manually filling in information from bank statements and company reports. Brad Clark, CFO at Five Points Capital, wanted to automate these redundant tasks, but felt many platforms still required too many manual inputs to generate quality reports.

Before a recent two-day investor meeting, Five Points Capital gathered the basic information it needed in significantly less time than before, allowing the firm to focus on telling meaningful stories and creating slick visual presentations.

THE SOLUTION

The firm needed a solution that would marry its data sets and serve as their single source of truth while also streamlining operations. He chose Cobalt's portfolio monitoring platform because of its flexible data ingestion options for portfolio company metrics, Excel plug-in, and API capabilities.

Patrick O'Rourke, Vice President of Strategy and Operations, took on implementation responsibilities. As the dedicated resource for the project, Patrick's background in accounting and finance helped test, reconcile, and standardize the new flow of data.

In the past, Five Points Capital had a handful of finance team members spend several days each quarter uploading data; that process no longer exists. With Cobalt, gross and net cash flow data is available in real-time through a direct connection with their accounting system. Employees enter portfolio company data into a custom Excel template that helps standardize the data.

"Having all our fund cash flow and portfolio company financial information together in the Cobalt database saves time whenever we perform analysis or generate a report," O'Rourke said. "Before, we would have to manually pull what we needed out of the spreadsheet for each company. Now, it's easy to get everything we need."

THE RESULTS

The firm uses Cobalt to generate its most-used reports on a regular schedule, such as its monthly deployment report that tracks investment and commitments related to fiscal year goals to assess risk and monitor performance. Since the firm's data is now centralized in Cobalt, the platform automatically generates quarterly investment reports. Cleaner, non-manually entered data provides a much-needed boost in data quality, integrity, and breadth.

Cobalt's API capabilities allowed Five Points to directly hook into their accounting system that refreshes daily upon entry. Using Cobalt as the database and reporting engine eliminates other internal tracking responsibilities.

Before a recent two-day investor meeting, Five Points Capital gathered the basic information it needed in significantly less time than before, allowing the firm to focus on telling meaningful stories and creating slick visual presentations. Several hour-long meetings disappeared in favor of focused, value add work.

In addition, using Cobalt helped the firm explore data in different ways, such as comparing direct alpha to the performance of the public markets for the most recent years. In turn, the firm built immeasurable trust with its investors.

"With our data securely housed in a robust system, we not only safeguard integrity, but also forge a path towards strengthening investor trust in every output we generate," O'Rourke said.

DISCOVER SOLUTIONS

FactSet creates data and technology solutions for investment professionals around the world, providing instant access to financial data and analytics that investors use to make crucial decisions.

Cobalt Portfolio Monitoring Platform

Expand your portfolio with insights that propel your firm toward success.

[GET STARTED](#)

FactSet Workstation

Seamlessly combine hundreds of data sources in one user-friendly research solution.

[GET STARTED](#)