A MODERN APPROACH TO COMPLEX STATE AND LOCAL TAX COMPLIANCE LEVERAGING TECHNOLOGY

A holistic view on how to harness technology for SALT compliance

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With you today





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Agenda



Topic	Duration
Corporate SALT compliance	20 minutes
Utilizing technology in NEXUS studies	20 minutes
Partnership SALT compliance	20 minutes

Learning objectives



- Identify how embracing technology can shift compliance from excel and emails to a single visually collaborative project management platform
- Demonstrate there is not a target deadline for tax compliance but a year-round relationship
- Explain how to utilize technology to generate efficiencies, mitigate risk, create customization based on reviewer, and document future opportunities
- Discuss how state and local tax compliance technology can be aligned to reduce rework

Corporate SALT compliance



Corporate state income tax process and technology analysis process



Current state for many taxpayers:



- Not a focus for company
- Always at the end
- Updates every time Federal changes
- Manually input everything
- SEVERAL excel workpapers to tie out returns and for audit support
- Files saved in shared folder with little organization and preparers often having copies on their desktop
- Information gathering check list in excel or none at all
- Review points go back and forth via email
- Forget about any identified opportunities or risks

Where do we want to be:

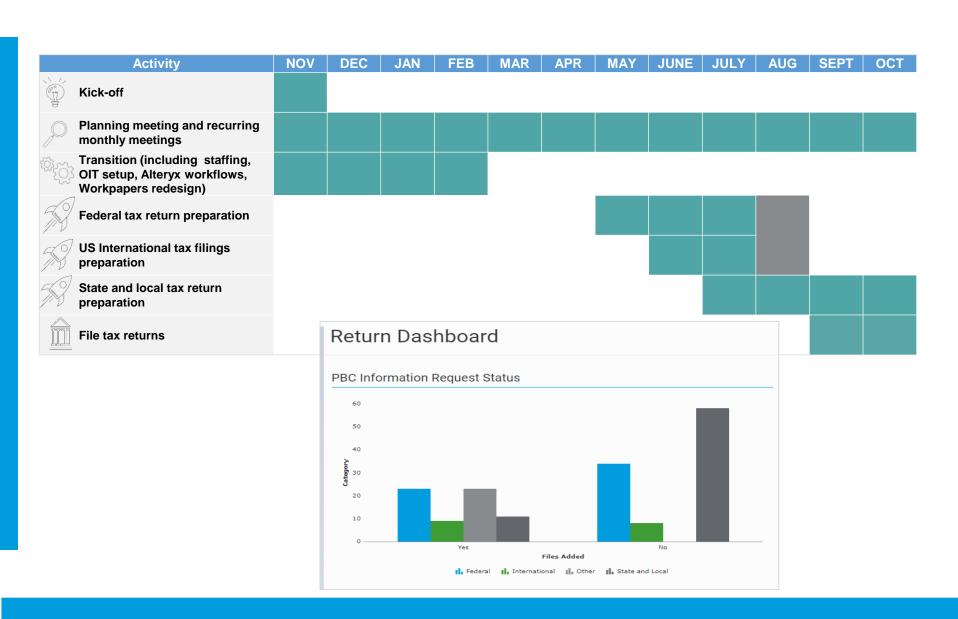
- Year-round focus
- APIs to update federal items opposed to manual
- Import everything possible
- Limited excel workpapers or even web based workpapers
- Comprehensive management platform to visually see where everything is at all times
- Review points everyone can access
- Visual records of opportunities, risks, and plans on how to address

RSM

State corporate tax is a year-round engagement

Constant activities

- 1. State notices
- 2. State provisions
- 3. Estimates/extensions
- 4. State audits
- 5. State amended returns
- 6. State opportunity implementations
- 7. State entity rationalization
- 8. State credit applications
- 9. And many more



Corporate annual return state tax process



Initiation

Understand your vision and goals

Planning

Develop a project schedule and setup goals

Execution

Implement processes and allocate resources

Monitoring

Ensure project deliverables are met

File, archive, start again

Timely delivery

Key activities: Involve SALT

- Discuss pain points in gathering data
 - New states and updated apportionment shouldn't be discovered in August.
 - Ask to be involved on the teams selecting and updating ERP systems.
 - Understand what projects outside consultations are working on and if there is an impact to SALT.

Key activities:

- Developing an internal and external communication plan based on deliverables and milestones
 - Use a shared calendar in a management platform that sends reminders to the team and holds teams accountable.
 - Consider using an update status tool where you don't need to get on calls to just walk through where items are.

Key activities:

- Project introduction and kickoff with team
- Lay out information requests from the beginning and modify visually along the way to hold everyone accountable.
- Task assignments are executed and tracked
- Modifying project plans as needed

Key activities:

- Ensuring if specific tasks are being completed
- Populating planning and opportunity documentation the entire year.
- Monitor state notices where everyone can see upcoming deadlines and SOLs.
- Use analytics to compare current year results to prior year information.

Key activities:

- Review XMLS!!
 - With e-filing, what the state sees is not always what is on the pdf.
- Saving e-file acceptance/approvals in files
- Feedback provided and received through debrief and formal feedback
- Continue to update notice tracker
- Revisit parking lot ideas

Corporate state tax overview



Data management

1. Gather

Gather source data including state apportionment, state depreciation and state payment details



Data transformation

2. Transform

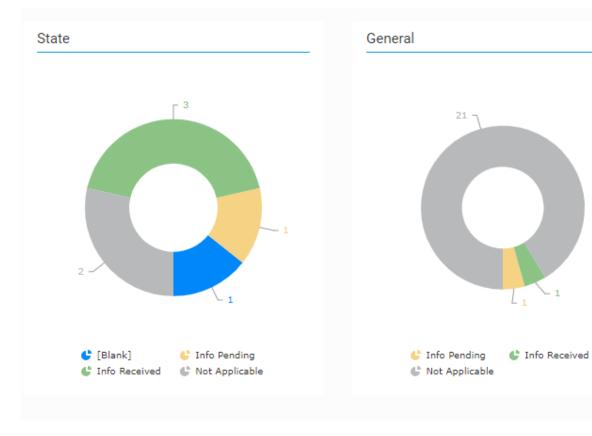
Utilize data
transformation tools
to analyze source data
and transform it into a
format to import into tax
software

Tools such as Alteryx can consolidate data sources and apply repeatable business rules



Information tracking outside of Excel



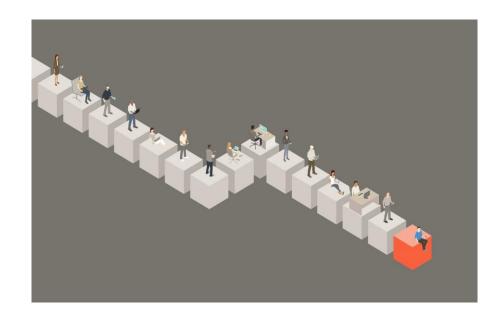


Information Request Tracker - Default -

Region +	Jurisdiction +	Jurisdiction - State +	Category +	Entity +	Project +	Information Requested 🕶	Due
North America	United States	CA	State & Local	Consolidated Group C		CA Unclaimed Property Confirmation	05/2

Corporate state tax overview





Tax calculation and reporting engines

3. Calculate

Calculate state modifications and review state apportionment information on a stateby-state filing basis

Leverage state tax provision reporting for state tax return compliance purposes as well as perform additional calculations

Tax analytics

4. Analyze

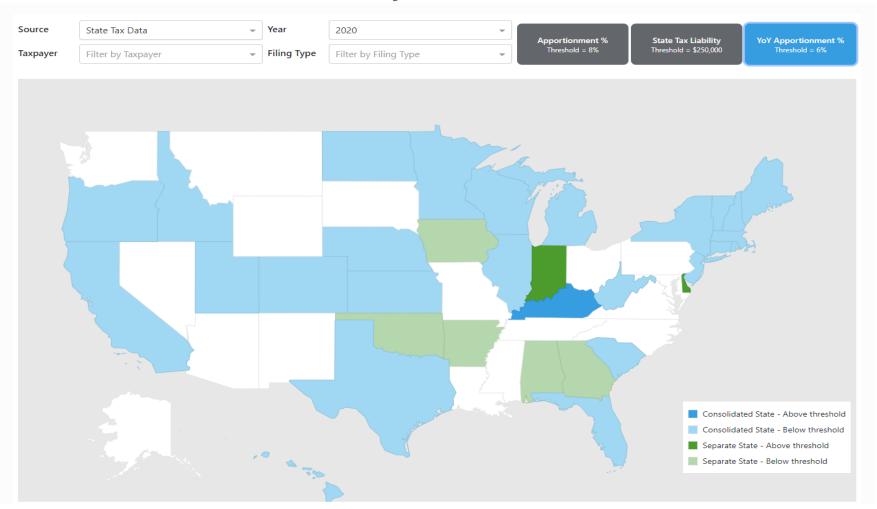
Use data analytics to highlight state tax return changes between tax return versions

Import state tax details into a dashboard and compare and analyze differences between prior year and current year

Utilizing data analytics – example

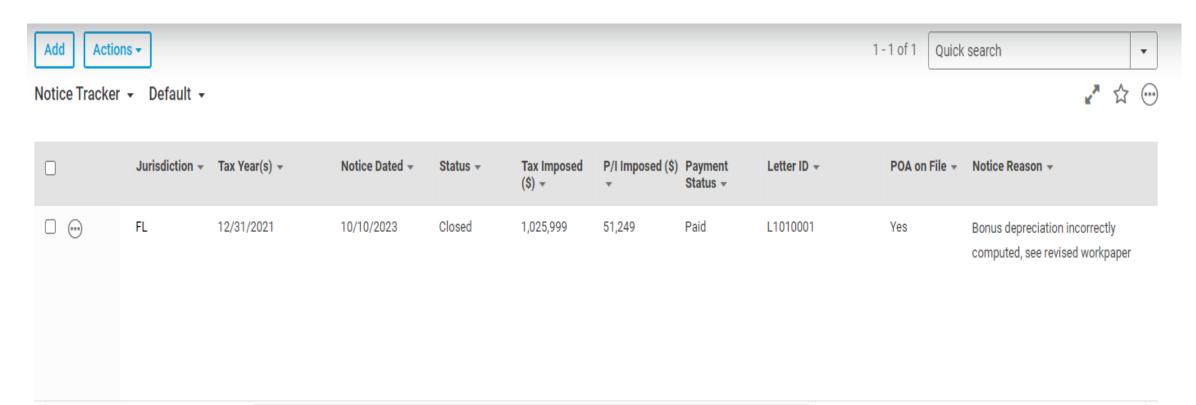


State apportionment data analytics for apportionment, state taxable income, state tax liability, etc.



State notices





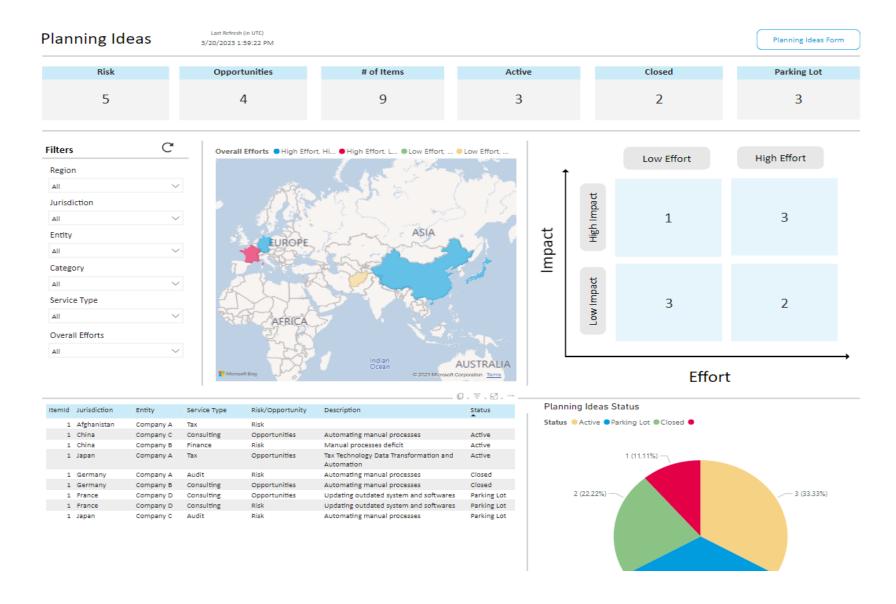
State e-filing tracking





Planning shouldn't be forgotten





Utilizing technology in Nexus Studies





What is "Nexus"

- Nexus: a connection or link between one thing and another
 - For state tax purposes, "nexus" is the critical link or amount of connection required before a state may impose a tax upon the taxpayer.
- Historically, nexus guidelines or limitations were established through court decisions (e.g. *Complete Auto*, *Quill*) or federal law (Public Law 86-272), but actual interpretation of what constituted nexus was largely left to each state.
- However, "nexus" evolves as the modes by which a taxpayer establishes a connection with a state evolves.

Nexus today



Economic Nexus

- ⁻ Physical presence is no longer needed to establish nexus.
- Recent court cases have established that "bright-line" thresholds of economic activity are sufficient to establish nexus (e.g. *Wayfair*)
- ⁻ Due process limitations remain as a defense against imposition (e.g. Complete Auto, P.L. 86-272)

Economic Nexus can be view from two perspectives

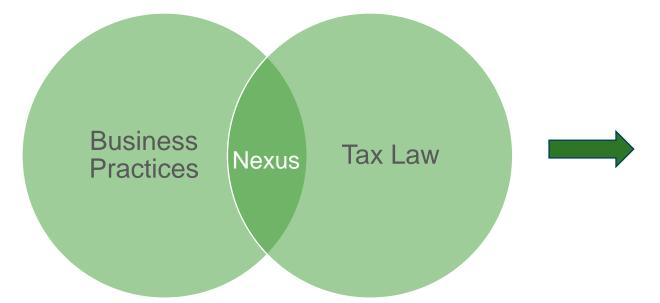
- ⁻Objective test:
 - Factor presence tests
 - Ex: \$500k of sales in a tax year sourced to locations within a state
 - Adopted by the MTC
 - Organized or commercially domicile in the state.
- Subjective test: "Doing Business"
 - "For the privilege of earning or receiving income in the state" (IL. 86 III, Admin Code Sec. 100.9720)
 - "Engaging in any transaction for the purpose of financial or pecuniary gain or profit" (Cal. Rev. & Tax Code Sec. 23101).
 - "Deriving income from sources within this state to the extent permitted by the United States Constitution" (Ga. Code Ann. Sec. 48-7-31(a).

A changing landscape



Changing business practices:

- The digital age
 - Remote services
 - SaaS
 - Digital advertising
 - Digital currency transactions
- Remote workforce
- Uncontrolled inventory



Changing tax law and guidance:

- Economic Nexus
 - Factor presence
 - Expansion of Doing Business statutes
- MTC's update to the P.L. 86-272 Statement of Information
- Imposition of new state taxes



Nexus Study overview



1 What is a Nexus Study?

Why is it important?

- A review of the activities of a taxpayer to determine if nexus has been met.
- Achieving nexus generally results in legal requirements imposed on the taxpayer.
- The costs of concurrent review and compliance can be significantly less than the cost of non-compliance.

Risk of exposure vs. benefits of Nexus review



- Playing defense on audit
 - No statute of limitation for noncompliance
 - Record keeping issues
 - Significant interest and penalties
- Playing defense on diligence
 - Purchase price concessions
 - Escrow hold-back
 - Forced compliance
- Financial statement issues

- Monitoring risk concurrently
 - Timely identifying and addressing material liabilities
 - Reserve documentation for nexus observations that did not result in compliance
- Identifying opportunities
 - Tax leakage due to self-assessing tax in nonexus states
 - Considering alternative business practices to mitigate a nexus determination
 - Understand impact of business decisions before they occur

Traditional Nexus Study approach



Examination of All Organizational Activities

Identification of Potentially Nexus Creating Activities

Analysis of Applicable Nexus Law to Relevant Facts

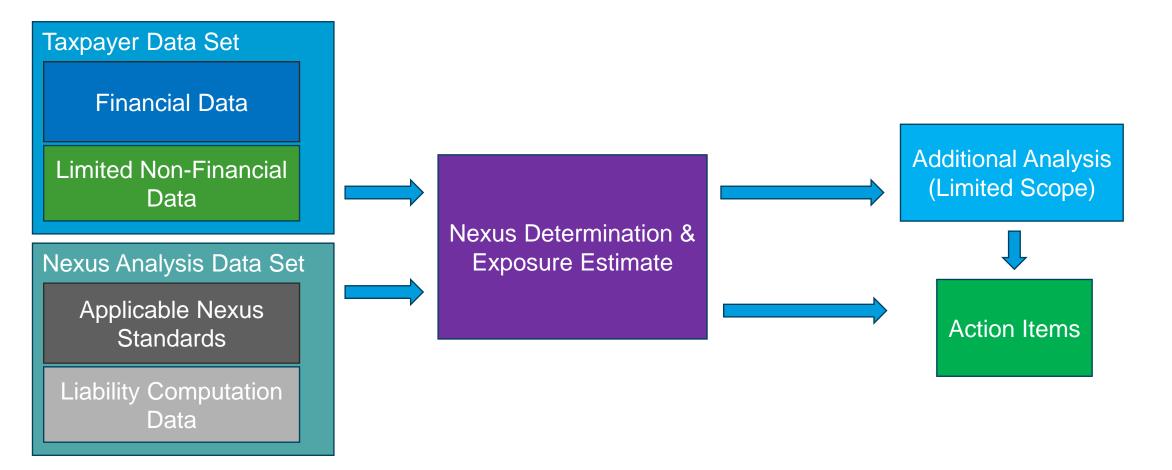
Nexus Determination

Quantification of Liability
/ Exposure

Action Items / Materiality

Nexus Study utilizing technology





Technology driven Nexus review



Technology enable process designed to produce the following:

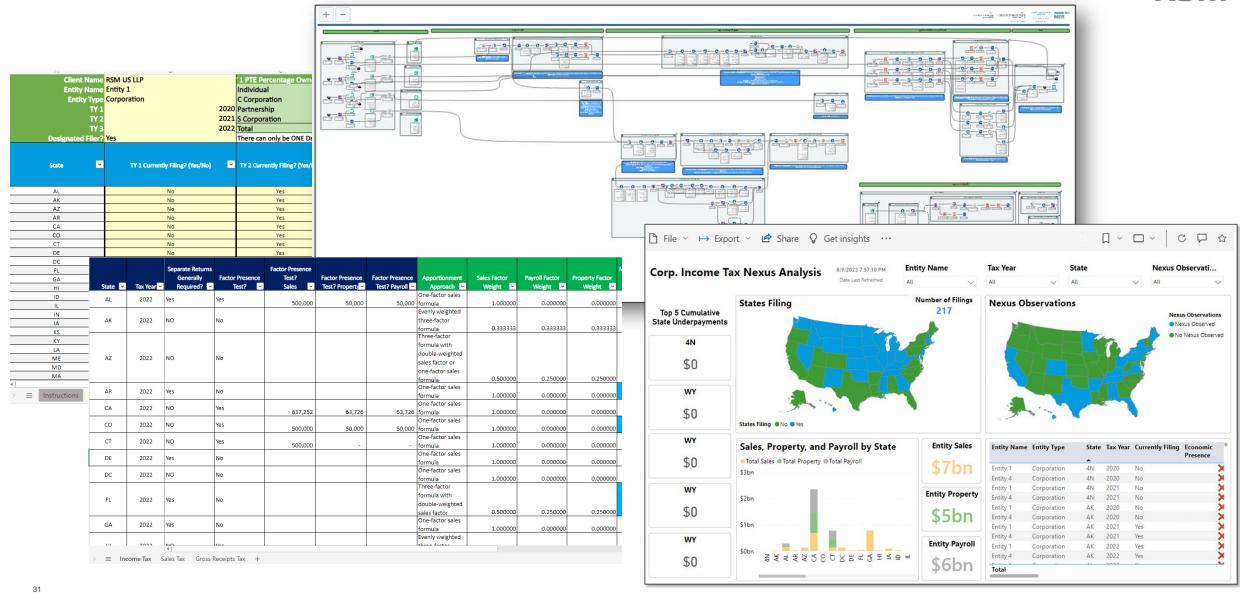
- Efficient use of time and data (limited involvement by management)
- Quantification of potential exposure to determine materiality and areas of focus.
- Scenario functionality proactive vs. reactive
- Leveragability of process
- Focus on action items

How we get there:

- Start with the end in mind (focus on areas of risk and exposure)
- Limited data set to identify material risk
- Use of templates and automated processes
- Reserve detailed analysis and technical support for those items deemed material by management

RSM Enterprise Nexus Solution





Takeaways



- Solution Nexus is ever-evolving through changes in business and tax law
- \$ A routine review of nexus can limit exposure (and identify opportunities)
- If your business has not conducted a recent nexus study, now may be the time
- A traditional nexus study can be a time and cost intensive effort
- ✓ By utilizing technology, a Nexus review enables taxpayers to
 - Efficiently identify material nexus exposure, and
 - Provide actionable information,
 - Through reduced costs in time, fees and resources.

Partnership SALT compliance



Partnership state income tax process and technology



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Partnership state tax overview



Data management

1. Gather

Gather source data including state apportionment, state depreciation, state payment details, and flow-through K1s.

On the investor level, we're gathering investor demographics, composite elections, and nonresident withholding waivers.



Data transformation

2. Transform

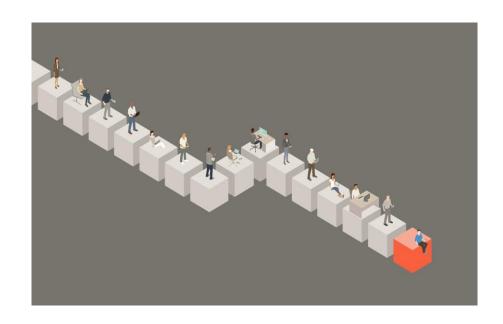
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transformation tools
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and transform it into a
format to import into
calculation engines
and/or tax software.

Tools such as Alteryx can consolidate data sources and apply repeatable business rules.



Partnership state tax overview





Tax calculation and reporting engines

3. Calculate

Calculate state modifications and state apportionment information on a state-by-state filing basis. Calculate state source income at the entity level as well as the allocations of each line of income/expense out to the investor level.

Partnership K1, and especially state K1, reporting out to investors is voluminous and typically very manual.

Automating this reporting is an area where great efficiencies can be gained.

Tax analytics

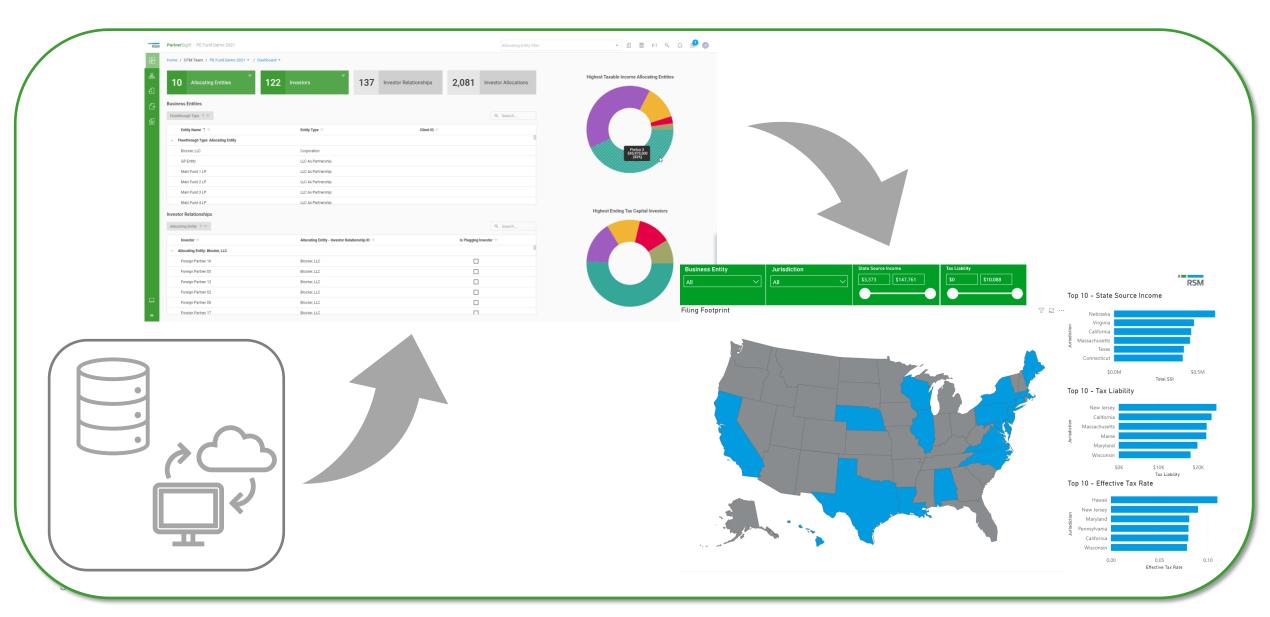
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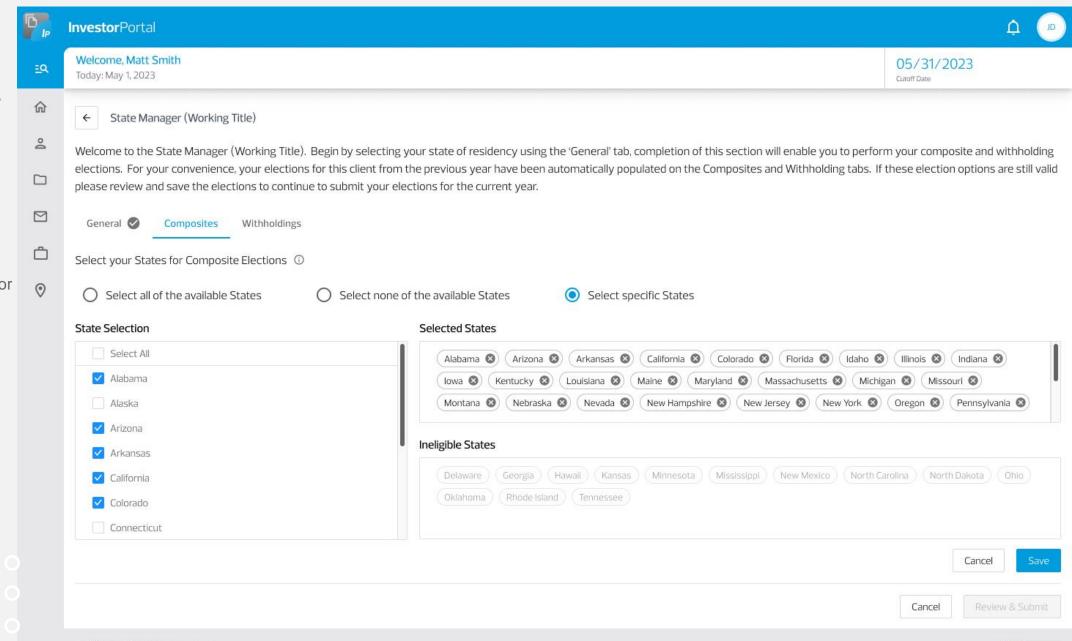
Tax compliance process – Digitally transformed





Investor Dashboard – State Manager – Composites & Nonresident Withholding Waivers

The investor wishes to change the state selection for the current year, so they select to choose specific states.





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Tax technology and stakeholder access









Access to real-time data is important for stakeholders.
Allows for tax to be less looking back and reporting.

Data can be used to make more proactive, informed decisions and shape strategy.

Dashboards and read-only access to tax technology systems provide more transparency with high-level summaries and granular data as needed.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR TIME AND ATTENTION



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