

Transforming Private Equity Through AI and Intelligent Automation

**How AI and Intelligent Automation are
reshaping Private Equity Operations**

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Introduction

Private Equity has long been defined by its ability to spot opportunities others miss and to turn potential into measurable value. A number of our PE clients have made incredible returns over the last few years but the dynamics of the industry are shifting.

Competition for quality assets is intensifying, investor expectations are rising and the complexity of portfolio oversight has increased as firms scale across multiple geographies, sectors and fund structures.

At the same time, regulatory pressure and reporting requirements are growing. ESG has moved from a side consideration to a central pillar of investor trust and deal qualification. LPs expect more frequent, more transparent and more personalised reporting. Regulators demand higher standards of auditability, risk management and operational control.

Internally, many firms still rely on fragmented systems and heavily manual processes to manage the investment lifecycle. A number of our clients are chasing the same deals, and deal teams are operating under compressed timelines that leave little margin for inefficiency during due diligence.

Portfolio monitoring remains dependent on retrospective reporting and Excel-driven analysis. Fund administration is often slowed by reconciliations, manual reporting cycles and inconsistent data quality. These inefficiencies increase risk at precisely the point where speed, accuracy and depth of insight are becoming critical.

Intelligent Automation presents a strategic opportunity to reset this model. By combining AI, process automation, advanced analytics and natural language processing, PE firms can build an integrated ecosystem that supports faster deal sourcing, sharper due diligence, streamlined fund operations and proactive portfolio value creation. Digital workers and automated workflows free deal and operating partners from low-value activity, while data-driven insights improve both investment decisions and investor communications.

This is not just a cost or efficiency play. It's about building a Private Equity model that is fit for the next decade: more agile, more scalable and more transparent. The firms that embed AI and Intelligent Automation into their operating model will be positioned to outperform peers on deal execution, portfolio returns and investor confidence.

“PE firms can build an integrated ecosystem that supports faster deal sourcing, sharper due diligence, streamlined fund operations and proactive portfolio value creation”

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Current Challenges in PE Operations

PE firms are under pressure to deliver consistent returns in an environment that is more competitive, more regulated and more data-intensive than ever before. While the industry has historically relied on strong networks, sharp judgement and lean teams, these foundations are being tested by systemic challenges that increase risk and limit scalability.



Deal sourcing and origination remain fragmented. Firms face vast volumes of potential targets across multiple geographies, but many still rely on desktop research, spreadsheets and unconnected CRM systems. The lack of automation slows responsiveness, reduces visibility of pipeline quality and can ultimately mean missed opportunities.



Due diligence processes are constrained by compressed timelines and the sheer volume of information that must be assessed. Legal, financial, operational, IT and ESG data are often siloed across systems and third-party reports. Manual review creates bottlenecks, increasing the risk of oversight or superficial analysis.



Portfolio monitoring is still driven by retrospective reporting. Many firms depend on quarterly updates, spreadsheets and delayed financial submissions which restrict the ability to take proactive action or identify performance issues early on. Inconsistent data from portfolio companies compounds the problem, limiting cross-portfolio insight.



Fund operations and administration face inefficiencies from reconciliations, NAV calculations and compliance reporting that are still highly manual. These tasks absorb valuable time, increase operational risk and restrict the ability to scale without additional headcount.



Investor relations expectations are growing. LPs want personalised, transparent and real-time reporting, but firms are constrained by legacy systems and manual data preparation. The result is longer turnaround times, higher risk of errors and a lack of consistency across communications.



Regulatory and ESG compliance are now central to the investment lifecycle. New requirements demand real-time auditability, traceability and evidence. Many firms lack the systems to meet these standards efficiently which adds to cost and reputational risk.

Taken together, these challenges reveal a structural gap. Firms are competing in an environment that requires speed, accuracy and transparency, but are held back by processes and systems that were designed for a smaller, less complex industry.

Without change, we believe that scalability will remain constrained and competitive advantage will start to erode.

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Opportunities with AI and Intelligent Automation

AI and Intelligent Automation (which is basically AI coupled with automation solutions) have the potential to reshape private equity by addressing systemic inefficiencies and enabling firms to operate with greater speed, scale and precision. Applied strategically across the investment lifecycle, it can strengthen decision-making, reduce risk and create the conditions for sustainable value creation.

- 1. Deal sourcing and origination** can be accelerated through automated data gathering, natural language processing and AI-driven analytics that scan large datasets, news flows and market signals. Digital workers can populate and maintain deal pipelines, score opportunities based on investment criteria and trigger alerts when high-potential targets emerge. This ensures deal teams spend more time engaging with prospects and less time on manual research.
- 2. Due diligence** can be strengthened through automation of document review, data extraction and cross-referencing. Intelligent systems can highlight anomalies, absorb ideas and sentiment from unstructured data sources to identify risks and potential compliance issues. This not only reduces manual workload but also enhances the depth and accuracy of due diligence within compressed timelines.

3. Portfolio monitoring becomes proactive rather than retrospective. AI and automated workflows can collect performance data directly from portfolio systems, standardise reporting across businesses and feed predictive analytics that identify early signs of underperformance or opportunity. This enables operating partners to act earlier and with more confidence.

4. Investor relations can be transformed by combining AI and automation with data visualisation. Digital workers can generate tailored reports for LPs, refresh dashboards in real time and ensure consistent responses to investor queries. This raises the quality and timeliness of communications, strengthening trust and competitive positioning.

5. Regulatory and ESG compliance can be embedded directly into workflows. AI and automated checks ensure that data used in deal assessment, fund reporting and portfolio monitoring meets regulatory standards. ESG data collection, validation and reporting can be automated intelligently, reducing cost while improving transparency and auditability.

When these capabilities are orchestrated across the value chain, PE firms can move beyond incremental improvements. AI and Intelligent Automation provide the foundation for an operating model that is more agile, more scalable and more transparent, positioning firms to deliver superior outcomes for investors and portfolio companies alike.

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Use Cases for AI and Intelligent Automation in Private Equity

While the potential of AI and Intelligent Automation span the full investment lifecycle, there are several areas where early adoption delivers the greatest impact. The below selection of use cases (a sample only) demonstrate how digital workers and automated processes can create measurable gains in efficiency, scalability and insight.

Deal Origination and Pipeline Management



MCH Private Equity implemented eFront's Investment Café to automate portfolio company reporting and streamline investor communications. Instead of relying on manual data collection from disparate sources, the system provides a consistent, standardised feed of KPIs into dashboards accessible to both the GP and its LPs. This has improved transparency, reduced reporting cycles and given MCH earlier visibility of underperformance across its portfolio.

Other firms have applied similar approaches: PE managers working with it|venture have automated KPI collection across multiple portfolio companies, enabling predictive analytics and early-warning alerts that allow operating partners to act before problems escalate.

Due Diligence Acceleration

INVESTCORP

Investcorp has adopted AI-driven due diligence tools to accelerate the analysis of large datasets during transactions. These platforms automatically scan thousands of documents and extract anomalies in financial or operational data that would otherwise require weeks of manual review. The approach has reduced both time and cost, while improving the consistency of risk detection.

Luminance

Similarly, legal due diligence teams working with document intelligence platforms such as Luminance have shown how automation of contract review and clause extraction can identify key risks faster, freeing lawyers to focus on interpretation rather than repetitive data processing.

Likewise, Panamoure have developed their own AI due diligence tools that drive significant insight whilst drastically reducing collation and processing times, resulting in improved value add and quicker response times for our clients.

Portfolio Monitoring and Value Creation

EQT

EQT has pioneered the use of its proprietary “Motherbrain” AI platform to enhance deal sourcing. The system analyses company filings, market signals and digital behaviour to identify and score potential investments before they come onto the broader market.

By automating this early-stage pipeline research, EQT reduces manual effort and increases the quality of opportunities presented to deal teams. Faster access to high-potential targets and a competitive advantage in sourcing.

Investor Relations and Reporting

KKR

KKR has built an investor portal that consolidates account data and fund information, giving LPs near real-time access to performance reporting and correspondence. This reduces the manual burden on IR teams while improving transparency for investors.

ARDIAN

Ardian has gone further with its Trustview platform, which delivers cashflow projections, portfolio insights and risk metrics directly to LP dashboards. By automating data collection and distribution, Ardian ensures consistent, timely and personalised communication with investors.

Both examples highlight how automation strengthens the GP–LP relationship, reduces manual workload and builds trust through transparency.

Fund Administration and Compliance

alterDomus*

Alter Domus, a major administrator for private equity and alternative assets, has integrated intelligent automation across more than 20 processes, including reconciliations, allocations, reporting and operational workflows, freeing staff from repetitive tasks and reducing operational risk. This deployment enables faster processing, fewer errors and greater throughput without a proportional headcount increase.

Artex Fund

In another case, Artex Fund Services onboarded a GP with over 50 funds in nine months, applying automation in fee calculations and fund operations to improve efficiency, support audit readiness and maintain continuity during a complex migration.

Driving change through AI and Intelligent Automation

These use cases highlight the breadth of opportunity. Each represents a function that is currently constrained by manual effort and fragmented systems, but can be radically improved through AI and Intelligent Automation.

Importantly, they can be deployed relatively cheaply and incrementally – funds can start with specific high-value processes and scale over time to build a fully connected, intelligent automation ecosystem.

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Future Outlook

Private equity is moving into a more complex and competitive era. Deal flow is faster, data volumes are greater and investor expectations are more demanding. In this environment, the firms that succeed will be those that can combine speed and precision with transparency and scale. AI and Intelligent Automation are central to achieving that balance.

So, the role of AI and Intelligent Automation is shifting. No longer confined to fund administration or operational support, we are seeing that it is becoming a core enabler of investment strategy. By embedding AI and automation into deal origination, due diligence, portfolio monitoring and investor engagement, funds can reshape how they identify opportunities, manage risk and deliver value. Note that the impact is not incremental, it changes the pace and scale at which firms can operate.

For investors, this means greater confidence. LPs will benefit from more frequent, more transparent and more personalised reporting. Intelligently automated data flows will reduce errors and inconsistencies, strengthening trust and enhancing the firm's reputation for governance and control. For operating partners and value creation teams, it means freedom from repetitive, manual tasks, allowing them to focus on the strategic initiatives that drive portfolio growth and margin expansion.

Naturally, adoption will vary across the industry. Some firms will limit AI and Intelligent Automation to tactical improvements in reporting and reconciliations. Others will recognise it as a structural shift and invest in building fully connected ecosystems, where digital workers, data pipelines and human expertise collaborate seamlessly. These leaders will operate with more agility, execute deals more effectively and generate superior insights across their portfolios.

The direction is obvious.

AI and Intelligent Automation will be defining capabilities of the next generation of private equity firms.

Those that act decisively now will accelerate growth, protect margins and strengthen resilience in a volatile market. Those that delay will remain constrained by legacy processes and find themselves outpaced by competitors who use AI and automation to combine speed, scale and transparency into a sustained advantage.

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Conclusion

“PE firms can transform both how they operate today, and how they are positioned for tomorrow”

PE has always thrived on its ability to move quickly, create value and deliver returns above the market. That edge is now being tested. Compressed deal timelines, growing investor demands and heightened regulatory pressure are reshaping the conditions in which funds must compete. Traditional operating models, reliant on fragmented systems and manual processes, are no longer sufficient to sustain superior performance.

AI and Intelligent Automation offer a route to rebuild that competitive advantage. By embedding digital workers and automated workflows across the investment lifecycle, from sourcing and due diligence to portfolio monitoring, fund administration and investor relations, PE firms can transform both how they operate today and how they are positioned for tomorrow.

The immediate benefits are clear.

Routine and resource-heavy tasks are streamlined, reducing cost and risk. Data flows are standardised and intelligently automated, improving accuracy and visibility. Deal and operating teams are freed to focus on higher-value activities such as strategic analysis, stakeholder engagement and portfolio growth. Investor relations are strengthened through more timely, transparent and personalised reporting.

But the longer-term implications are more significant. AI and Intelligent Automation create a scalable operating model that allows firms to manage more complex portfolios without proportional increases in headcount. It enhances resilience by embedding compliance, auditability and ESG tracking directly into workflows. It builds a foundation where data, insight and execution are seamlessly connected, giving firms the agility to act faster and with greater precision than competitors.

The firms that act decisively now will redefine best practice in private equity. They will demonstrate to investors that they combine operational discipline with innovation. They will prove that technology is not simply a support tool, but a driver of competitive advantage and sustainable growth.

For those willing to embrace AI and Intelligent Automation, the opportunity is clear. It's not just an efficiency play, it's a growth engine. It enables PE firms to operate with the speed, scale and transparency that today's market demands, while building the structural foundations for sustained performance and long-term value creation.

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How Can We Help

From proof of value to enterprise-wide transformation

AI and Intelligent Automation present a clear opportunity for private equity firms, but capturing that value requires more than experimenting with individual pilots. It demands a structured approach that aligns with fund strategy, integrates across the investment lifecycle and delivers measurable outcomes for both the GP and its portfolio companies.

At Panamoure, we bring a combination of sector expertise and hands-on delivery experience to help PE funds move from concept to impact. We work with both funds and portfolio companies to design automation strategies that unlock value quickly while laying the foundation for scale and resilience. Our focus is always on business outcomes, protecting margins, accelerating growth and increasing investor confidence.

In practice, this means:

- ➔ **AI maturity and data infrastructure assessment:** AI readiness and a quantified business case and roadmaps that identify and sequence where AI will deliver the greatest returns across deal-origination, diligence, fund operations, portfolio monitoring and investor reporting.
- ➔ **Rapid proof of value pilots** that deliver tangible results within weeks, demonstrating ROI and building confidence across stakeholders.
- ➔ **Portfolio-wide programmes** that support operating partners and portfolio management teams in driving consistent efficiency and governance across multiple businesses.
- ➔ **Ongoing optimisation and governance** to ensure solutions remain compliant, effective and aligned with evolving investor and regulatory expectations.
- ➔ **AI-enhanced IT Due Diligence** using AI trained for commercial analysis, we deliver not only an enhanced view of the risks in an IT organisation, but also in a fraction of the time it would take a human team.

We know that leadership teams value practical, evidence-based engagement. That is why we offer a focused workshop at our investment to:

1. Understand your strategic objectives and assess your current challenges
2. Identify opportunities for AI and Intelligent Automation, including quick wins which may provide the basis for broader transformation.
3. Vision, AI and Intelligent Automation roadmap for the next 12 months
4. Outline indicative costs, benefits and timelines tailored to your business.

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Why Panamoure?

Panamoure is a value creation consultancy that is now trusted by over forty PE funds across the UK, Europe and the US.

We identify value creation levers across the entire investment lifecycle.

We then align our propositions and capabilities to pull those levers in delivering high value across:

- PE Fund Operations
- IT Due Diligence
- Port Co Digital Strategy (to achieve the IM)
- Port Co Digital Transformation
- Port Co Exit readiness and value drag reduction

Our dedicated AI-driven offshore delivery centre enables us to achieve rapid, impactful results with unparalleled value.

If you are ready to explore how IA can accelerate performance across both your fund and your portfolios, we can help you take the first step.

Contact Us →



Barry Duncan
Partner, Private Equity & AI



An international Strategic IT Director and CIO, Barry has 20 years experience in private equity, as both a CTO within the fund and within the portfolio. His background includes working with Blackstone in the US, Eurazeo in France and Germany and Inflexion and ICG in the UK. Results orientated, he delivers consistently high return-on-investment for our Panamoure private equity client base.



Paul Emberton
Partner, AI and Intelligent Automation



Paul is an experienced digital transformation leader with a 30-year track record across front and back office optimisation. From CRM and CX platforms to contact centre technologies and Intelligent Automation, Paul has helped organisations scale transformation using tools like Blue Prism, Microsoft Power Platform, ServiceNow, and emerging agentic AI.



Accelerating growth at pace

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