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NEWSLETTER · IN CONVERSATION WITH DUNCAN KEMP

The leap after the restructure

Duncan Kemp — two decades building software for life sciences — on the entrepreneurial jump he didn't plan, the problem-solver's mindset, and keeping family in the frame.

Duncan Kemp has spent more than twenty years turning what customers want into software that actually works, starting in 1998 on site-automation software for phase one trials and riding a series of acquisitions into leading engineering teams across continents. In January 2024 that chapter ended when he was restructured out — and he took the daunting leap into founding his own consultancy. We met at the ACDM event in Prague and have been in touch since.



I was always motivated to help others and to solve problems.

— Duncan Kemp, on Pharma Prescribed

Two decades of translation

Duncan's real skill isn't code, it's translation — taking a customer's messy requirement and turning it into a technical concept clear enough to build. He's watched the life-science software stack evolve from early site systems

through mobile and beyond, and innovation has been the constant. The tools change; the job of making an idea tangible doesn't.

The unplanned jump

Being restructured out of a role is rarely anyone's plan, and he's candid about how daunting the leap into his own business felt. But it's a familiar arc — the enforced ending that becomes the thing you'd always half-wanted to do. Something we've both lived, and worth naming for anyone standing at a similar edge.

Keeping family in the frame

What I appreciated most was his insistence on bringing family balance into the conversation. The founder's story is usually told as relentless hustle; Duncan tells it as something that has to fit around a life. In an industry that quietly rewards busyness, that's a healthier model than most.



Listen to the full episode

Duncan Kemp on Pharma Prescribed — at pharmaprescribed.com and wherever you get your podcasts.

Duncan Kemp *is the founder of Software Solutions, a software consultancy for the life-science industry, with over twenty years' experience.*