Mehmet Egemen Pembe

AI & Digital Transformation Leader
Ex–Co-Founder & CTO | Enterprise IT, Software Delivery, Cloud & AI | Fortune 500 Experience

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Professional Summary

Technology executive with 19+ years in software engineering leadership, AI integration, and digital transformation. Proven record of scaling products from concept to launch, managing cross-functional teams, and delivering secure, enterprise-grade solutions. Former fintech co-founder with experience in cloud, payments, and compliance, blending hands-on technical expertise with executive strategy.

Core Skills Snapshot

Leadership & Strategy: Team building, executive collaboration, IT-business alignment, vendor & partnership management
Technology: .NET Core, Python, React Native, Node.js, AWS, GCP, Azure, Docker, Kubernetes, CI/CD
AI & Cloud: AI model integration, ML solutions, API-driven platforms, compliance (GDPR, KVKK, CCPA, EU AI Act, IRS)
FinTech & Platforms: Embedded payments (Stripe, Mercury), ERP/CRM, e-commerce, real-time video

Professional Experience

AI & Digital Transformation Consultant | Independent Consultant | İstanbul, Türkiye | Aug 2024 – Present
- Advise executives on AI adoption and digital transformation strategies across industries.
- Design and prototype AI-driven solutions for automation, efficiency, and new service models.
- Publish thought leadership on AI, digital transformation, and organizational innovation.

Co-Founder & CTO | EmployeeZ, Inc. | Irvine, CA | May 2021 – Jul 2024
- Co-founded and scaled a fintech gig marketplace with job-matching, live video, and embedded banking.
- Architected mobile apps (React Native) and backend (.NET Core, AWS) with integrated payments (Stripe, Mercury).
- Developed an AI chatbot with recommendation algorithms to increase user engagement.
- Directed company strategy, operations, and compliance (GDPR, CCPA, IRS).
- Built and managed distributed development teams and vendor partnerships.

Technology Consultant | Independent Consultant | İstanbul, Türkiye | Oct 2018 – Apr 2021
- Built the MVP of the EmployeeZ platform incubated at ITU Çekirdek.
- Served as CTO-level advisor for FiPi Design, leading SEO and e-commerce initiatives.
- Directed technology strategy and delivery for Design Maslak across SEO and digital marketing projects.

IT Solutions Manager | Yum! Brands (KFC, Pizza Hut) | İstanbul, Türkiye | Nov 2014 – Apr 2018
- Reported to the CIO, managing a $1M annual IT budget and 20+ vendor partnerships.
- Led 4 IT staff, delivering 20+ projects including ERP, e-commerce, and delivery tracking systems.
- Directed digital initiatives in payments, business intelligence, and compliance (GDPR, KVKK).

Software Development Team Lead / Sr. Dev. | Roche Pharmaceuticals | İstanbul, Türkiye | Feb 2008 – Jan 2014
- Led 5 engineers at the global Center of Excellence, delivering CRM to 8,000+ users across 65 countries.
- Managed 17 engineers (internal and offshore) to develop Mobile CRM, awarded Global Innovation Project of the Year.
- Directed ETL and data migration projects across 7 European countries.

Senior Software Developer | Kantar | İstanbul, Türkiye | Jul 2005 – Feb 2008
- Developed ERP & CRM applications integrated with finance and payroll.

Electrical Project Manager | Eto Enerji A.Ş. | İstanbul, Türkiye | May 2003 – Nov 2004
- Designed and executed electrical infrastructure projects across 3 cities.

Education

MBA, Management & Organization
Beykent University | 2014 – 2015

BSc, Electrical & Electronics Engineering
Eskişehir Osmangazi University | 2000 – 2004

Certifications & Professional Development (Selected)

AI & Digital Transformation: AI For You – CeADAR (2025), Introduction to Modern AI – Cisco (2025), Machine Learning for Leaders – Harvard (2025), The AI Awakening – Stanford (2024)

Leadership & Strategy: Resilient Leadership – Harvard Business School (2024), Narrative Economics – Yale University (2024), Leadership Development Program – YUM! Brands (2015)

IT & Project Management: Project Management Methodologies – İstanbul Kurumsal Gelişim (2014), ITIL v3 Foundation – HPE (2012), Scrum Master – Scrum Alliance (2010)

Technical Training: Learning Vue.js – LinkedIn Learning (2025), Learn SAP Course – Peter Moxon (2017)

Entrepreneurship: 8-Week Entrepreneurship Training – ITU Çekirdek (2018), Gamification & Behavioral Design: The Octalysis Framework – Yu-kai Chou (2018)

Languages

- English (Fluent, IELTS 2017)
- Turkish (Native)