

INTERVIEW

Dev-X Stories

Pedro Diaz – Senior Technical
Product Manager at Spryker



“The Path to a Better Developer Experience Begins with Spryker’s Software Development Kit.”

PEDRO DIAZ
Senior Technical Product Manager at Spryker



As technology continues to influence every facet of human life, it has become crucial to not only nurture scarce tech talent, but also improve processes that have a direct impact on the performance and overall efficiency of tech teams. Developer Experience is a concept that draws attention to the feelings surrounding developers and their projects.

Arguably, simplifying workflows by building tools that help developers function more effectively are crucial elements of both product development and maintenance that often get overlooked.

Although some technology leaders agree that the way developers work and feel about their tasks will eventually play a role in how well systems are maintained or how fast a company will innovate, very little is still being done to improve developer experience in most industries.

Spryker is committed to solving this problem by providing tools and programs that developers need to improve their processes. With tools like the Software Development Kit (SDK) designed to empower developers as they build cloud native applications.

The goal is to enable developers to work in a much faster and standardized way, as well as spend less time on maintenance in the future.

Pedro Diaz, Senior Technical Product Manager at Spryker believes that the path to a better developer experience begins with SDK. In this interview, he shares more about why developer experience is important and what the future of Spryker SDK will look like.

Why is it important to improve the developer process and experience?

[PD]: When we look at the clients that have chosen Spryker to implement their digital commerce strategies we realize that these are advanced and sophisticated platforms that can't be covered with "off the shelf" bundled products, therefore the need for customisation and adaptation of the software to their business needs is mandatory.

The total cost of ownership (TCO) of these adaptations will be directly impacted by developer hours and quality of work. Having a fine-tuned Developer Experience (DX) guarantees that the time invested will be worthwhile. Furthermore, a productive development process ultimately influences the efficiency of the end product.

What would you say is one major element that makes for a good developer experience?

[PD]: A good developer experience is characterized by reduced feedback loops. Lowering the single iteration time and decoupling working lines, allows for the highest productivity. In scaling up any development operation, giving reliable and actionable feedback instantly is very critical.

How do companies benefit from implementing a Software Development Kit (SDK)?

[PD]: We have identified several Enhancement Vectors on the Software development cycle that we want our SDK to contribute to. The most important being significantly reducing the time invested in building and maintaining a platform; with time reductions in certain components as high as 80%. This will be achieved through the automatization of artifact generation and platform upgrades.

It is also worth noting the fact that the SDK will help companies onboard developers much faster; this is key for companies looking to scale their teams or recycle previously existing teams. With features such as Automated Code Validation which bring contextual information on the error/warning/info detected, the knowledge of developers will be instantly improved and the need for personal intervention from tech leads will be either reduced or eliminated. Another direct benefit for companies is that the SDK will be constantly up to date on the latest best practices and conventions, thereby eliminating old deprecated concepts could have an impact on performance or reduce upgradability. This means less maintenance costs, longer platform life, and reduced investment needs.



The SDK is much more than a collection of tools built around Spryker. With the SDK, we are providing a productivity course in the form of a development tool.



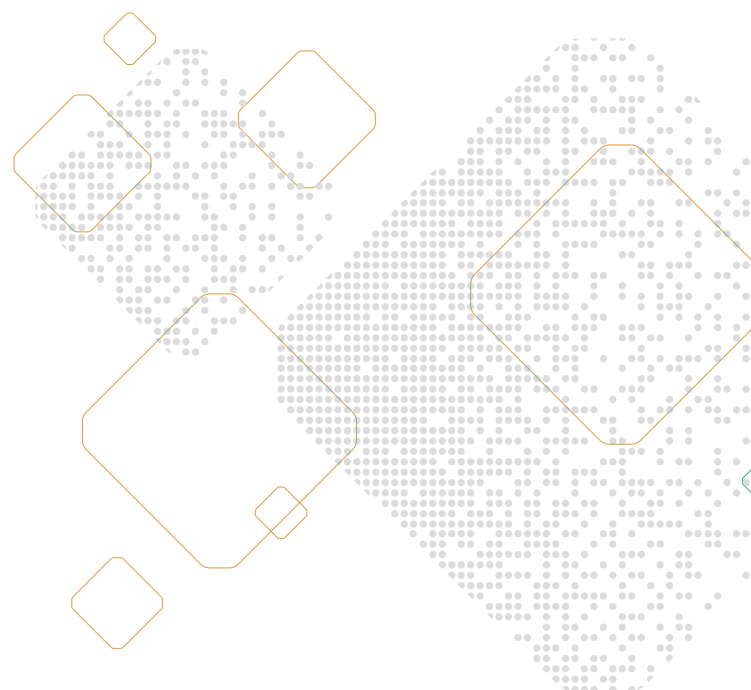
What is the Spryker SDK and how does it work?

[PD]: This is a groundbreaking concept as the Spryker SDK will not only train you on how to build in the most effective way, but also empower you to build for PaaS+ and AOP, which will be the key components of our future-proof architecture.

The way to start using it is by running our installer file that guides you through the setup procedure.

Once this is done, you will either start a new Spryker project or initialize an already existing one and from that moment on the SDK will be your reference point for the whole software development process.

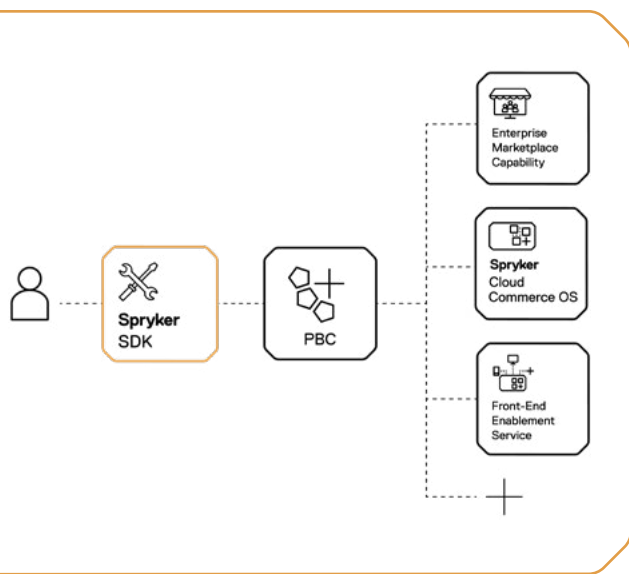
It will guide you through the optimal steps and prevent you from wasting time doing things that do not provide value to your specific business needs.



Within the Spryker ecosystem, where would you place SDK?

[PD]: Spryker's SDK can be seen as the developer's entry gate into the world of Spryker. With the developers being very important parts of the process, we make sure they enter into the Spryker ecosystem with a welcome pack that guides them and grants them the best possible experience.

Through the SDK, our goal is to provide a cornerstone of all other components that can be found in Spryker, and then making it the only tool developers will ever need to fulfill any imaginable Spryker project. Whether it's an AOP package that will be sold to thousands of customers worldwide or an ultra specific development built ad hoc to distinguish your company from competitors.



You helped define the SDK workflow. Can you elaborate on that?

[PD]: The concept of the workflow comes from the need to give our Spryker developers "best-of-breed" quality in every step of the process. Our focus with this functionality is to gather the ideal set of steps to follow based on the information we have gathered from you, your current needs and the past history of your project.

We have analyzed the most productive Spryker development process and split it into steps that will make sure you do not spend unnecessary time conducting tasks that can be provided through our automation feature. Our workflow also enables you to run certain necessary validations that might detect required changes; it also future-proofs your work by ensuring the latest conventions are followed.

What does the roadmap for Spryker's SDK look like? Are there any future problems that you hope to solve?

[PD]: One of the most important features in the roadmap of Spryker SDK is the IDE integration, while we are still working to provide enough infrastructure to empower developers, we understand that the usability of the tool is also of critical importance. We will be addressing this by providing seamless integration with the two main IDE for Spryker projects, according to our surveys, JetBrains PhpStorm and later Microsoft Visual Studio Code. As part of our future roadmap, we also plan to conduct a big revamp of our testing framework. Spryker's SDK can bring huge optimization gains in the creation and maintenance of the test coverage for our customers' platforms. In the long run, this will substantially reduce their total cost of ownership.



About Spryker

Spryker Systems GmbH is a privately held technology company headquartered in Berlin, Germany and New York, USA. Founded in 2014, Spryker enables companies to build sophisticated transactional business models in unified commerce including B2B, B2C, and Enterprise Marketplaces. Spryker is the most modern, fully composable platform-as-a-service (PaaS) solution with headless & API-based architecture that is cloud and enterprise-ready and loved by developers and business users worldwide. Spryker customers extend their sales reach and grow revenue with a system that allows them to increase operational efficiency, lower the total cost of ownership, expand to new markets and business models faster than ever before: Spryker solutions have empowered 150+ companies to manage transactions in more than 200 countries worldwide and is trusted by brands such as Aldi, Siemens, Hilti, and Ricoh. Gartner® recognized Spryker as a Visionary in the 2021 Magic Quadrant™ for Digital Commerce, just one year after it first appeared (2020), and has also been named as a major player in B2B e-Commerce by IDC. Finally, it is the only commerce platform to provide full B2B, B2C, D2C, and Marketplace capabilities out of one stack. Find out more at spryker.com



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