How
Andrea Arnolds
became an
Intrapreneur

Andrea Arnolds
– Project Leader at Valantic

Spryker

Something that should never be left out in any project – that includes commerce projects as well – is the aspect of your own personal development. Your human effort and learnings should be of as high value as the actual project outcome. We spoke with **Andrea Arnolds**, who shared her personal development experience while working on a Spryker project with her previous company with us and there is plenty to take away from it:

Andrea, tell us where your journey began!

[AA]: I originally started as a content manager in the company that I previously worked for.
At some point, a separate digital department was formed, which included me as well. It was quickly established that we needed a new shop solution, and that's where Spryker came into play. At that time, I had no project management experience. A very knowledgeable colleague was at my side, but the Spryker system was new for him as well.

Right, so there were plenty of new tasks and subjects that you never worked with before lying ahead of you?

[AA]: Yes, this allowed me to learn a lot – in the area of project management, but especially in regards to the microservices approach. I did not only get to know Spryker itself, but also improved my expertise in various departments and processes, like linking a whole digital infrastructure, which I can now ultimately apply to new digital projects.

So would you say that after the Spryker project, you felt more strengthened in your career?

[AA]: During the four years I worked together with Spryker, I learned a lot.
At some point I started to notice, especially on Xing or LinkedIn, that my newly gained knowledge gave me a much higher visibility as I was able to offer such a wide range of skills that came with the project. During that time I got more and more responsibility, and ended up being the owner of the project at the age of 24.
Of course that was a big challenge for me, but I also knew that this was a great opportunity for my future career, which I should seize.

Did that "career boost" surprise you at first?

[AA]: Well, we actually had the pleasure of winning a prize with the store that we set up within these four months of the project. For me, the four months goal was something we just had to meet.

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But when experts who have been working in the commerce sphere for years suddenly recognized: "Wow, only four months and you set that up with Spryker, that is impressive!", I realized what the whole project team had actually achieved.

This being reinforced even from the outside was an honor and a big success for our whole project team, and a great point for myself and my career to build on.

When you got this responsibility, did you have the feeling that you developed a drive to generally follow and implement your creative ideas and goals?

[AA]: In any case, I noticed that with every sprint, I gained a lot more experience. A lot of what you hear from digital projects at the beginning can sound very overwhelming. Especially when colleagues who are older talk about topics that seem totally foreign to you. But if you are willing to learn and open to acquire this knowledge, you quickly make the connections and become more courageous and open to just experiment. You should feel free to make suggestions in the team, even if you think you are not an expert yet. Maybe it helps the project, or you express something no one has thought of before.

What can you lose? In the worst case, you're wrong, but you still learned something.

Conclusion:

If you ever get the feeling that the commerce world would still spin without you, it is your chance to"put a dent in the universe".

The innovation or project you're pursuing could potentially bring great personal development alongside many chances to boost your career.

➡ **Learn more in our latest guide "How to become an intrapreneur with Spryker"!**

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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