

Committing

How do I commit right?

What makes a good commit message?

1. Separate subject from body with a blank line
2. Limit the subject line to 50 characters
3. Capitalize the subject line
4. Do not end the subject line with a period
5. Use the imperative mood in the subject line
6. Wrap the body at 72 characters
7. Use the body to explain what and why vs. how

A good example would be:

Summarize changes in around 50 characters or less

More detailed explanatory text, if necessary. Wrap it to about 72 characters or so. In some contexts, the first line is treated as the subject of the commit and the rest of the text as the body. The blank line separating the summary from the body is critical (unless you omit the body entirely); various tools like ``log``, ``shortlog`` and ``rebase`` can get confused if you run the two together.

Explain the problem that this commit is solving. Focus on why you are making this change as opposed to how (the code explains that). Are there side effects or other unintuitive consequences of this change? Here's the place to explain them.

Further paragraphs come after blank lines.

- Bullet points are okay, too

- Typically a hyphen or asterisk is used for the bullet, preceded by a single space, with blank lines in between, but conventions vary here

If you use an issue tracker, put references to them at the bottom, like this:

Resolves: #123

See also: #456, #789

Atomic commits

Each commit should express a single unit of work on a single feature. Don't bulk-commit all of the work you did today, or write your entire project in one go and then commit that all at once. Commit whole pieces of work, ideally leaving the application in a workable state.

When you need to think what happened as you are writing your commit message then you already have done too much for a single commit.

Tip: The same can also apply for pull request. Keep it short and don't try to merge 50 commits at once, if you are working in a team.

Sources

<https://cbea.ms/git-commit/>

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