Commit Messages

Good Practices

by

Tarin Gamberini

Abstract

An extremely little set of rules to write good commit messages.

History (how code changes over time) become a very useful tool if associated with good commit messages.

These slides would make developers more aware about how good commit messages could improve their work.

Usually do not write
commit messages

I have said to my cat

that some developers

usually do **not** write

commit messages

My cat could not belive it …

USUALLY
DO NOT WRITE
COMMIT
MESSAGES
?!?

Commit Messages
Why?

Any software project is a
collaborative project

Any software project has
at least **two** **developers** …

Because when some **poor maintainer** is **hunting a bug** and finds that it was added in revision xyz, he will want to know …
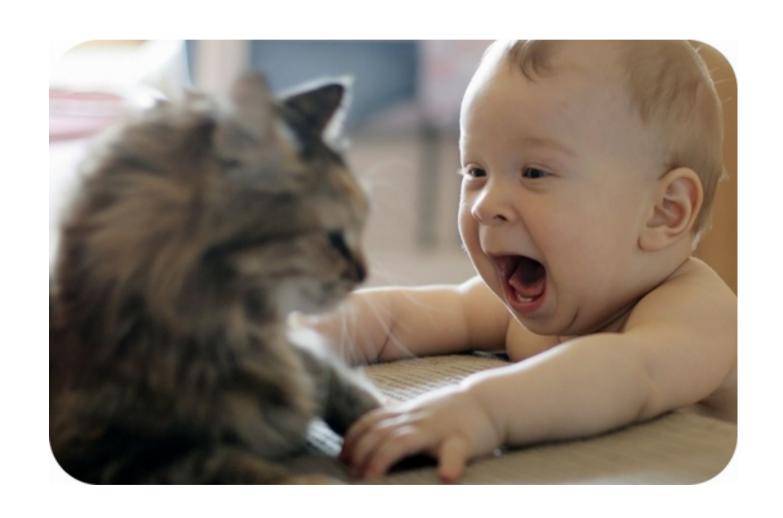
Because when some **requirement** can be **implemented** in **several ways** the **responsible developer** will write, in revision xyz ...

... **WHY** revision xyz was implemented in that way

Because when **the boss wants to know** why a **functionality** was added, and the developer finds that happened in revision xyz, the **developer** will want to know ...

Commit Messages

How?

The following hints are
based on experience
doing **code development**,
bug troubleshooting and
code review across a number
of projects using GIT

Examination of **other projects**
Such as the Kernel, CoreUtils,
GNULIB and more suggested
they **all** **follow** a fairly
common practice

COMMIT MESSAGES   HOW?

The **first** line

> Switch libvirt get_cpu_info method over to use config APIs
>
> The get_cpu_info method in the libvirt driver currently uses XPath queries to extract information from the capabilities XML document. Switch this over to use the new config class LibvirtConfigCaps. Also provide a test case to validate the data being returned.
>
> Closes-Bug: #1003373
> Implements: blueprint libvirt-xml-cpu-model
> Change-Id: I4946a16d27f712ae2adf8441ce78e6c0bb0bb657

The **first** line

Imperative

[**!!!**

Switch libvirt get_cpu_info method over to use config APIs

The get_cpu_info method in the libvirt driver currently uses XPath
queries to extract information from the capabilities XML document.
Switch this over to use the new config class LibvirtConfigCaps. Also
provide a test case to validate the data being returned.

Closes-Bug: #1003373
Implements: blueprint libvirt-xml-cpu-model
Change-Id: I4946a16d27f712ae2adf8441ce78e6c0bb0bb657

The first line

Imperative

Should be
limited to
50 chars

!!!

[
```
Switch libvirt get_cpu_info method over to use config APIs

The get_cpu_info method in the libvirt driver currently uses XPath
queries to extract information from the capabilities XML document.
Switch this over to use the new config class LibvirtConfigCaps. Also
provide a test case to validate the data being returned.

Closes-Bug: #1003373
Implements: blueprint libvirt-xml-cpu-model
Change-Id: I4946a16d27f712ae2adf8441ce78e6c0bb0bb657
```

50

The **first** line

Imperative

Should be
limited to
50 chars

Should
not end
with a **period**

!!!

[

```
Switch libvirt get_cpu_info method over to use config APIs

The get_cpu_info method in the libvirt driver currently uses XPath
queries to extract information from the capabilities XML document,
Switch this over to use the new config class LibvirtConfigCaps. Also
provide a test case to validate the data being returned.

Closes-Bug: #1003373
Implements: blueprint libvirt-xml-cpu-model
Change-Id: I4946a16d27f712ae2adf8441ce78e6c0bb0bb657
```

50

The **second** line

[
```
Switch libvirt get_cpu_info method over to use config APIs

The get_cpu_info method in the libvirt driver currently uses XPath
queries to extract information from the capabilities XML document.
Switch this over to use the new config class LibvirtConfigCaps. Also
provide a test case to validate the data being returned.

Closes-Bug: #1003373
Implements: blueprint libvirt-xml-cpu-model
Change-Id: I4946a16d27f712ae2adf8441ce78e6c0bb0bb657
```

The **second** line

Should be
blank

```
[  Switch libvirt get_cpu_info method over to use config APIs

   The get_cpu_info method in the libvirt driver currently uses XPath
   queries to extract information from the capabilities XML document.
   Switch this over to use the new config class LibvirtConfigCaps. Also
   provide a test case to validate the data being returned.

   Closes-Bug: #1003373
   Implements: blueprint libvirt-xml-cpu-model
   Change-Id: I4946a16d27f712ae2adf8441ce78e6c0bb0bb657
```

The **second** line

Should be
blank

Further
paragraphs
came after a
blank line

```
[  Switch libvirt get_cpu_info method over to use config APIs

   The get_cpu_info method in the libvirt driver currently uses XPath
   queries to extract information from the capabilities XML document.
   Switch this over to use the new config class LibvirtConfigCaps. Also
[  provide a test case to validate the data being returned.

   Closes-Bug: #1003373
   Implements: blueprint libvirt-xml-cpu-model
   Change-Id: I4946a16d27f712ae2adf8441ce78e6c0bb0bb657
```

Subsequential lines

```
Switch libvirt get_cpu_info method over to use config APIs

The get_cpu_info method in the libvirt driver currently uses XPath
queries to extract information from the capabilities XML document.
Switch this over to use the new config class LibvirtConfigCaps. Also
provide a test case to validate the data being returned.

Closes-Bug: #1003373
Implements: blueprint libvirt-xml-cpu-model
Change-Id: I4946a16d27f712ae2adf8441ce78e6c0bb0bb657
```

Subsequential lines

Should be
limited to
72 chars

```
Switch libvirt get_cpu_info method over to use config APIs

The get_cpu_info method in the libvirt driver currently uses XPath
queries to extract information from the capabilities XML document.
Switch this over to use the new config class LibvirtConfigCaps. Also
provide a test case to validate the data being returned.

Closes-Bug: #1003373
Implements: blueprint libvirt-xml-cpu-model
Change-Id: I4946a16d27f712ae2adf8441ce78e6c0bb0bb657
```

72

Subsequential lines

Should be limited to **72 chars**

Detailed description of the change

```
Switch libvirt get_cpu_info method over to use config APIs

The get_cpu_info method in the libvirt driver currently uses XPath
queries to extract information from the capabilities XML document.
Switch this over to use the new config class LibvirtConfigCaps. Also
provide a test case to validate the data being returned.

Closes-Bug: #1003373
Implements: blueprint libvirt-xml-cpu-model
Change-Id: I4946a16d27f712ae2adf8441ce78e6c0bb0bb657
```

Original problem *Why wHy whY* *limitations if any*

72

External references

```
Switch libvirt get_cpu_info method over to use config APIs

The get_cpu_info method in the libvirt driver currently uses XPath
queries to extract information from the capabilities XML document.
Switch this over to use the new config class LibvirtConfigCaps. Also
provide a test case to validate the data being returned.

Closes-Bug: #1003373
Implements: blueprint libvirt-xml-cpu-model
Change-Id: I4946a16d27f712ae2adf8441ce78e6c0bb0bb657
```

External references

Do **not** assume **availability** of external **resources**

```
Switch libvirt get_cpu_info method over to use config APIs

The get_cpu_info method in the libvirt driver currently uses XPath
queries to extract information from the capabilities XML document.
Switch this over to use the new config class LibvirtConfigCaps. Also
provide a test case to validate the data being returned.

Closes-Bug: #1003373
Implements: blueprint libvirt-xml-cpu-model
Change-Id: I4946a16d27f712ae2adf8441ce78e6c0bb0bb657
```

External references

Do **not** assume **availability** of external **resources**

Bug tracking integration

```
Switch libvirt get_cpu_info method over to use config APIs

The get_cpu_info method in the libvirt driver currently uses XPath
queries to extract information from the capabilities XML document.
Switch this over to use the new config class LibvirtConfigCaps. Also
provide a test case to validate the data being returned.

Closes-Bug: #1003373
Implements: blueprint libvirt-xml-cpu-model
Change-Id: I4946a16c27f712ae2adf8441ce78e6c0bb0bb657
```
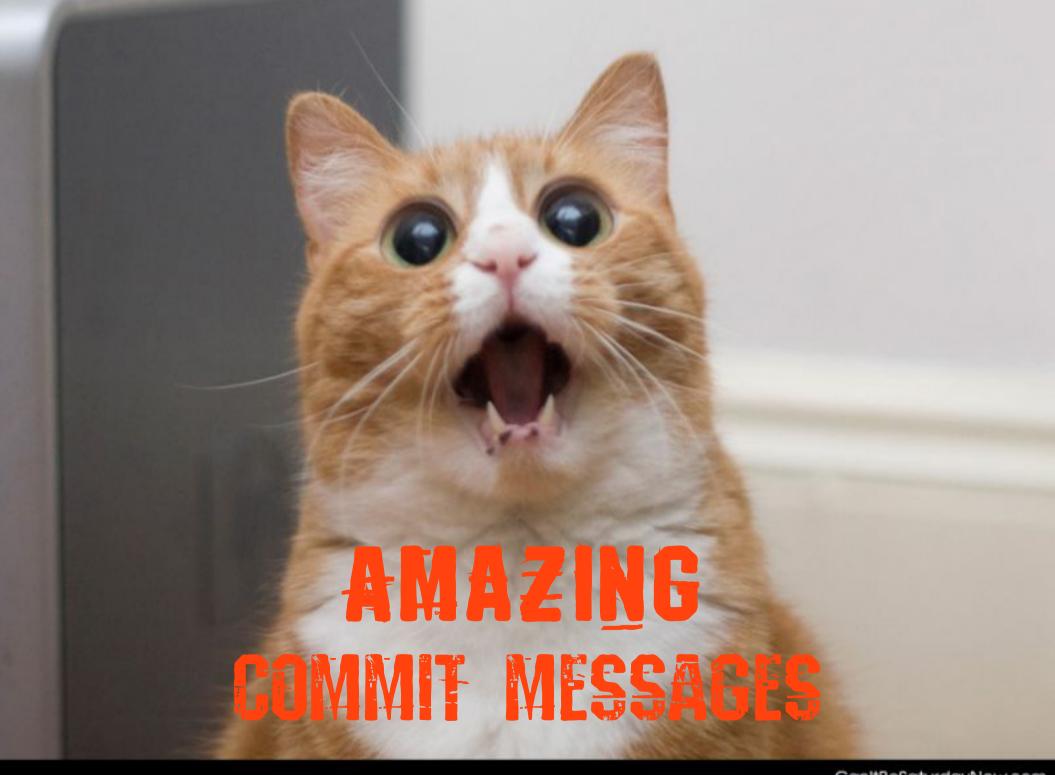
Usually write
commit messages

I have said to my cat

that **now** those developers

are getting **used** to writing

amazing commit messages

My cat was astonished …

AMAZING
COMMIT MESSAGES

Bibliography

Why should I write a commit message?

    http://programmers.stackexchange.com/questions/52267/why-should-i-write-a-commit-message

GIT Commit Good Practice

    https://wiki.openstack.org/wiki/GitCommitMessages

A Note About Git Commit Messages

    http://tbaggery.com/2008/04/19/a-note-about-git-commit-messages.html

Best Practices for Version Control

    http://blog.looplabel.net/2008/07/28/best-practices-for-version-control/

On commit messages

    http://who-t.blogspot.de/2009/12/on-commit-messages.html

Subversion Best Practices

    http://svn.apache.org/repos/asf/subversion/trunk/doc/user/svn-best-practices.html

Redmine - Administration Guide - Referencing issues in commit messages

    http://www.redmine.org/projects/redmine/wiki/RedmineSettings#Referencing-issues-in-commit-messages

Is Multiple-Column Online Text Better? It Depends!

    http://psychology.wichita.edu/surl/usabilitynews/72/columns.asp

Images attribution

Slide 4

"frightened cat" from Simon Video at
http://www.simonvideo.com/iphone-ipod-touch/how-to-downgrade-your-iphone-os-4-0-beta-3g-on-a-mac/

Slide 7

"the original developer" from High Cats Wallpapers Quality at
http://daveandmonicamunson.blogspot.it/2012/04/high-cats-wallpapers-quality.html
"the original developer few month later" from Fun and Fitness at Fifty at
http://fitnessandfunatfifty.wordpress.com/2012/12/07/where-the-heck-did-i-hide-those-presents/forgetful-cat/

Slide 9

"hunting a bug" from Movie Posters – feedio.net at
http://img.thesun.co.uk/multimedia/archive/01249/Monkey-massaging-c_1249605a.jpg

Slide 11

"orange cat" from Fanpop at
http://www.fanpop.com/clubs/think-different/images/31463891/title/orange-cat-photo

Images attribution

Slide 13

"the boss wants to know" from HD Wallpapers, Images and Photos at
http://hdwallpaperen.com/wp-content/uploads/2013/09/Funny-Baby-And-Cat-HD-Wallpaper.jpg

Slide 15

"git logo" from SILICON ANGLE at
http://siliconangle.com/blog/2012/07/09/social-network-for-developers-github-raises-monster-series-a-round-funding-100m/

Slide 30

"astonished cat" from Can it be Saturday Now at
http://canitbesaturdaynow.com/images/fpics/3244/1264885670882_large.jpg