Best Practices for Commit Messages

Sample template for commit messages

If applied, this commit will...

Why is this change needed?
Prior to this change,

How does it address the issue?
This change

Provide links to any relevant tickets, articles or other resources

Create a file in your home directory. Copy and paste. Filename is arbitrary

```
$ nano ~\.git_commit_msg.txt
```

Add the template to your user config

```
$ git config --global commit.template ~/.git_commit_msg.txt
```

Now when you commit and you want to use the template, you can just run

```
$ git commit
```

This will then open the text editor specified in your core editor, and you can then write your commit message

Guidelines for a great Git commit message

1. Keep in mind: This has all been said before.
2. Separate subject from body with a blank line
3. Limit the subject line to 50 characters

4. Capitalize the subject line
5. Do not end the subject line with a period
6. Use the imperative mood in the subject line
7. Wrap the body at 72 characters
8. Use the body to explain what and why vs. how

Sample commit message entry

```
21:27 $ git log -n 1
commit 8b9caf2620379dd81d186d576a5c101cbbe581bb (HEAD -> q3s8_refundmigration, origin/q3s8_refundmigration)
Author: Darryl Malcaba <darryl.malcaba@aptean.com>
Date:   Thu Sep 28 18:56:37 2017 +0000

    Migrate old refund data structure to new structure

    Prior to this, the Orders data have two different refund structure.
    One with the refund_date populated, which is the old way.  The other one
    is with a copy of the original Order with a document type of refund
    which we have implemented sometime in April/May 2017.
    With two different structures, creating financial reports makes it more
    difficult, not to mention technical debt.

    Migrating old refund data to the new structure by taking all the Order
    records with a refund date and creating an equivalent Order record
    with a document type of refund. With only one set of refund structure,
    it will minimize the complexity of reports in the future.

    [TFS UC13922]
✓ ~/sandbox [q3s8_refundmigration|✓]
```

Sources:

http://codeinthehole.com/tips/a-useful-template-for-commit-messages/

https://robots.thoughtbot.com/better-commit-messages-with-a-gitmessage-template

https://chris.beams.io/posts/git-commit/