

Commit Messages

GIT commit messages are generally comprised of three sections: a short summary, a longer explanation, and links to references. Starting with this structure forces you to answer why the change is necessary before outlining the changes that you have made.

- The summary should be no longer than 50 characters
- The summary should be tagged with what type of commit it is. For example, "[feat] Added a new feature" or "[fix] Fixed a bug".
- Each line of the explanation should wrap at 72 characters
- If a commit fixes an issue, it should be denoted with Fixes: {url}
- If a commit references another commit, outside source, etc, it should be denoted with Refs: {url}

The summary is required but the longer explanation and refs may not always be necessary or apply to the situation at hand.

Template

You can tell GIT to use a template for commit messages with this structure. This is done by setting commit.template in ~/.gitconfig:

```
[commit]
  template = ~/.gitmessage
```

Then create ~/.gitmessage with the following:

```
#-----50-----|
#Summary (50 characters)

#-----72-----
-|
#Explanation (wrap around 72 characters (80 - short indent on either side))

#-----72-----
-|

#-----72-----
-|
#Refs:
#Fixes:
```

COMMIT MESSAGES

```
#-----72-----  
-|  
# Type can be  
#   feat      (new feature)  
#   fix       (bug fix)  
#   refactor  (refactoring production code)  
#   style     (formatting, missing semi colons, etc; no code change)  
#   docs      (changes to documentation)  
#   test      (adding or refactoring tests; no production code change)
```