Atomic Commits

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Do you use Version Control System?

What do we commit?

We commit tippo fixes.

We commit missing comments.

We commit refactored code.

We commit bug fixes.

We commit new functionality.

How we may commit?

We might do little commits with tiny changes.

We might do big commits with many changes.

We might mix typos with bug fixes.

We might mix refactoring with a new functionality.

We might mix them all in one huge commit.

Why do we commit?

Business Requirements.

Part of the normal development process.

What do we do with commits?

Keep them for historical reasons.

Sometimes we rollback changes in commits.

We use them during code reviews.

We communicate with other software engineers.

Atomic Commits!

This is an old principle, back from year 2004.

"Change reflects a single purpose: the fixing of a specific bug, the addition of a new feature, or some particular task."

- Subversion Best Practices

One commit - one change, even across many files.

Smallest possible commit.

Do not mix cosmetic and functional changes.

Reasons for atomic commits

No broken builds.

Possibility to revert.

Easier to dig change history.

Easier to review changes.

Patterns

Atomic typo fix.

Atomic bug fix.

Atomic style fixes.

Atomic refactoring.

Atomic commits for new functionality

Try Atomic commits.

Add changes iteratively.

Don't break the build.

Do refactoring as separate commits.

Rebase if possible.

Merge without squash.

Rollback

Rollback last commit, fix, commit again.

Rollback bug fix that does more harm than good.

Anti-patterns

Commit "every character" we add.

Commit functionality without tests. Add tests later.

Overhead that worth your efforts.

This is a principle, not a law.

Share your thoughts.

Links

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Atomic_commit

https://www.barneyb.com/barneyblog/2006/01/27/atomic-commits-to-version-control/http://www.conifersystems.com/2008/11/05/the-benefits-of-small-commits/

https://www.freshconsulting.com/atomic-commits/

https://seesparkbox.com/foundry/atomic_commits_with_git

http://adopteungit.fr/en/methodology/2017/04/26/how-to-do-atomic-commits.html

http://www.tothenew.com/blog/why-are-atomic-commits-a-best-practice-in-git/

https://medium.com/@fagnerbrack/one-commit-one-change-3d10b10cebbf

https://frederickvanbrabant.com/2017/12/07/atomic-commits.html

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

Thanks!

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