



Telling stories through your commits

BY JOEL CHIPPINDALE AT LRUG IN JANUARY 2015

Not about Ruby

Not even about git



Managing complexity

by Cory Doctorow (CC BY-SA)

Your commit history is...

Kept forever

Always up to date

Searchable


```
$ git log --grep='Commit contents'
```

```
$ git log -S 'Diff contents'
```

```
$ git blame
```

2b66b32a	(Prathamesh Sonpatki	11	gem 'mocha', '~> 0.14', require: false
2b66b32a	(Prathamesh Sonpatki	12	
7891cbf4	(Lee Reilly	13	gem 'rack-cache', '~> 1.2'
58009ace	(Carlos Antonio da Silva	14	gem 'jquery-rails', github: 'rails/jquery
fa5a1b93	(Joshua Peek	15	gem 'coffee-rails', '~> 4.1.0'
74a9b377	(Rafael Mendonça França	16	gem 'turbolinks'
58009ace	(Carlos Antonio da Silva	17	gem 'arel', github: 'rails/arel', branch

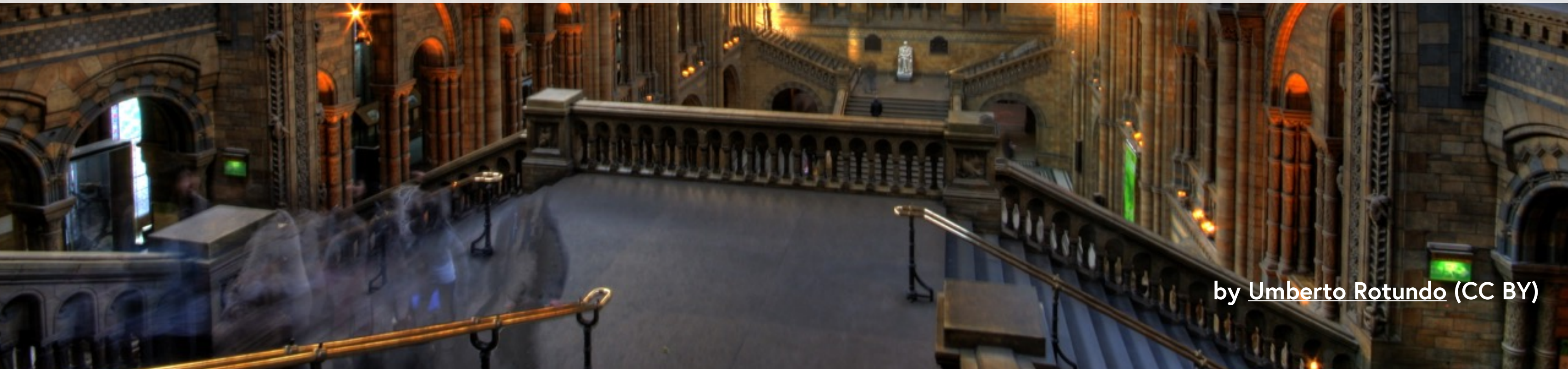
**"Every line of code is always
documented"**

- Mislav Marohnić

from <http://mislav.uniqpath.com/2014/02/hidden-documentation/>

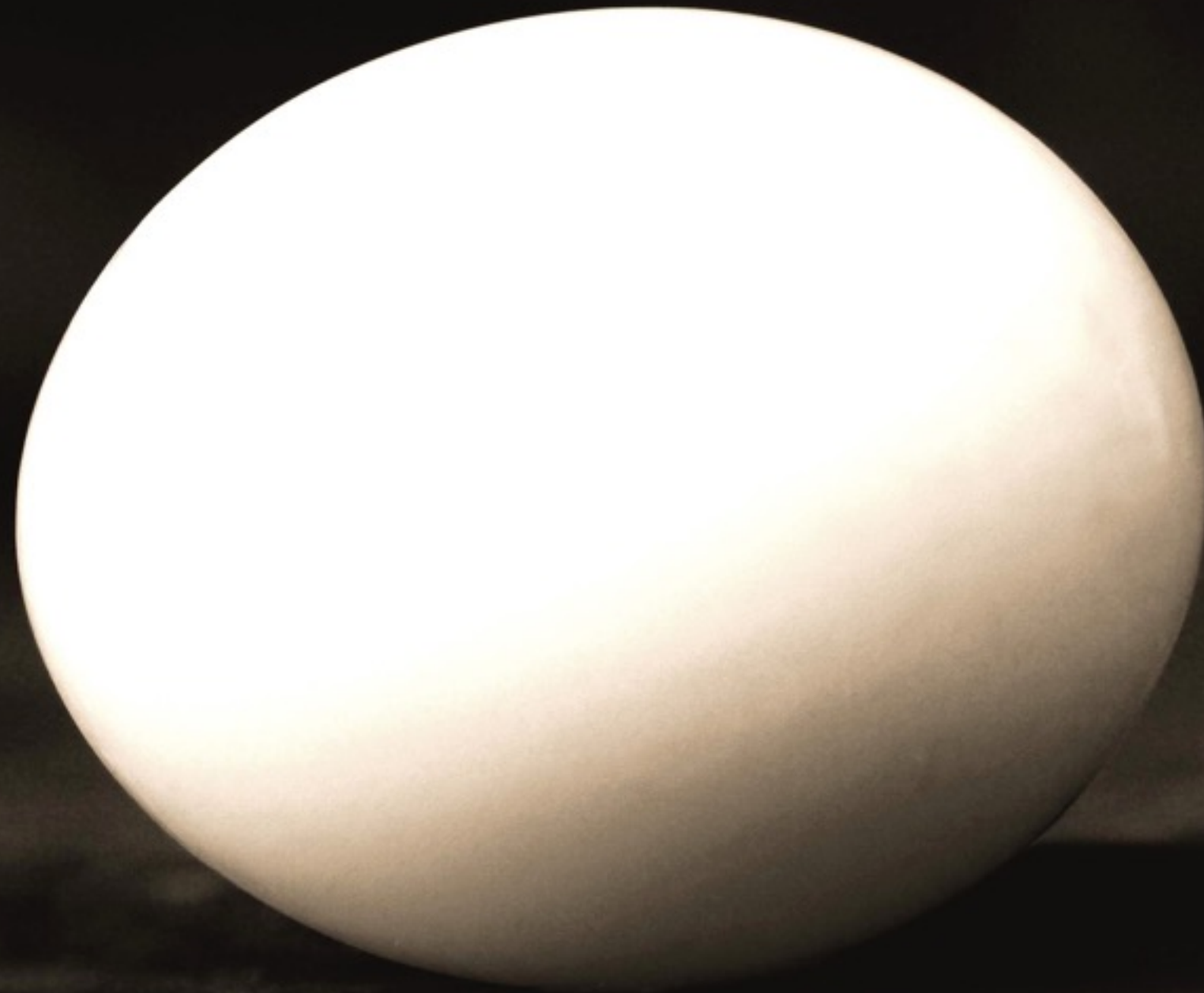


5 Principles



by [Umberto Rotundo](#) (CC BY)

1. Make atomic commits



by [lupusphotos](#) (CC BY)

```
$ git log --shortstat  
commit: [REDACTED]  
Author: [REDACTED]  
Date:    [REDACTED]
```

bug fixes and wp 4.0.1 update

```
1377 files changed,  
175405 insertions(+),  
248 deletions(-)
```


**What if this commit had
been split up?**

21dfe89 Fix category page redirects
e275479 Fix deletion of author avatars
d824e02 Fix H2 headers on mobile
f8e36d4 Fix footer floating bug
d972537 Fix blog author avatar upload
d26e788 Remove unused author pages
7b91091 Fix blog feed
2f05036 Fix mixed content warnings
ed21e18 WordPress 4.0.1 update

Minimum viable commit

Avoid 'and' in commit messages

**Make atomic commits
so that you can
make sense of your commits**



2. Write good commit messages

by Ginny (CC BY-SA)

What does good look like?

Short one line title

Longer description of what the change does (if the title isn't enough).

An explanation of why the change is being made.

Perhaps a discussion of context and/or alternatives that were considered.

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Correct the colour of FAQ link in course notice footer

PT: <https://www.pivotaltracker.com/story/show/84753832>

In some email clients the colour of the FAQ link in the course notice footer was being displayed as blue instead of white. The examples given in PT are all different versions of Outlook. Outlook won't implement CSS changes that include `!important` inline[1]. Therefore, since we were using it to define the colour of that link, Outlook wasn't applying that style and thus simply set its default style (blue, like in most browsers). Removing that `!important` should fix the problem.

[1] <https://www.campaignmonitor.com/blog/post/3143/outlook-2007-and-the-inline-important-declaration/>

**Write good commit messages
(including why and the context)
so that you can
make sense of your commits**

3. Revise history before sharing



by hoodedfang (CC BY-NC)


```
$ git rebase --interactive
```


**Remove, reorder, edit,
merge and split commits**

324d079 Fix typo in "Add Foo"

ab2189d Remove Bar

2a11e7d Add Foo

```
$ git rebase --interactive master
```

```
1 pick 2a11e7d Add Foo
2 pick ab2189d Remove Bar
3 pick 324d079 Fix typo in "Add Foo"
4
5 # Rebase 1bd241c..324d079 onto 1bd241c
6 #
7 # Commands:
8 #   p, pick = use commit
9 #   r, reword = use commit, but edit the commit message
10 #   e, edit = use commit, but stop for amending
11 #   s, squash = use commit, but meld into previous commit
12 #   f, fixup = like "squash", but discard this commit's log message
13 #   x, exec = run command (the rest of the line) using shell
```

```
1 pick 2a11e7d Add Foo
2 fixup 324d079 Fix typo in "Add Foo"
3 pick ab2189d Remove Bar
4
5 # Rebase 1bd241c..324d079 onto 1bd241c
6 #
7 # Commands:
8 #   p, pick = use commit
9 #   r, reword = use commit, but edit the commit message
10 #   e, edit = use commit, but stop for amending
11 #   s, squash = use commit, but meld into previous commit
12 #   f, fixup = like "squash", but discard this commit's log message
13 #   x, exec = run command (the rest of the line) using shell
```

1bd241c Remove Bar

773e345 Add Foo

**Rewrite history before sharing
so that your collaborators can
make sense of your commits**

A photograph of a long, arched tunnel with a brick or stone wall. The tunnel is illuminated by a series of lights along the ceiling, creating a strong perspective effect. A person is visible walking away from the camera in the distance. The text "4. Use single purpose branches" is overlaid on the top half of the image.

4. Use single purpose branches

by [Jon Bennet](#) (CC BY)

**When you take a diversion
move the work off the branch**

Use single purpose branches
so that you can
make sense of your current work




5. Keep your history linear

A Git commit history visualization showing a series of commits and their relationships. The commits are listed on the left, and their messages are on the right. Colored lines connect the commits to show the branch lineage.

a3ce6ca	○ Remove deprecated ActiveSupport::Cache::Store.instrument
c7a1fa3	○ Merge pull request #18324 from prathamesh-sonpatki/rails-version-in-bug-templates
5529862	○ Update bug report templates to use version 4.2.0 instead of 5.0.0 [ci skip]
2d9b9fb	○ Merge pull request #18319 from kamipo/sql_type_has_been_determined
299e5f9	○ `sql_type` has been determined already when quoting defaults
e54d275	○ Merge pull request #18318 from kamipo/stop_passing_the_column_when_quoting...
abab2bf	○ Stop passing the column to the `quote` method when quoting defaults
5777f0b	○ Merge pull request #18283 from kamipo/refactor_postgresql_column
3225ebf	○ Prefer `array?` rather than `array`
217e5f6	○ Improve the matches on the scaffold generator tests
1468a11	○ Merge pull request #13434 from tanraya/local_variables
6bd8126	○ Use local variables in _form.html.erb generated by scaffold generator.
4591b0f	○ Merge pull request #17227 from claudiob/explicitly-abort-callbacks
9c65c53	○ Add config to halt callback chain on return false

Rebase before you merge

- 
- A vertical line on the left side of the commit list represents the main branch history. It is red for the first four commits, purple for the next two, and pink for the last three. Horizontal lines connect the commit hashes to their descriptions.
- da82086 ○ Explicitly define db backup credentials on staging.
 - efa7698 ○ Merge branch 'improve-date-selection-when-scheduling-course-notices'
 - afa31b2 ○ Activate JS date picker for browsers not supporting date input.
 - fb425de ○ Add bootstrap-datepicker-rails gem for use in Course Creator.
 - 10b9327 ○ Convert run notice date select fields into single date field.
 - b772a2 ○ Cache the number of weeks in a run
 - 1a4e8b2 ○ Update ecosystems course URL change migration
 - f12d8ae ○ Update ecosystems course URLs
 - 4444ef1 ○ Merge branch 'crl-change-all-courses-link'
 - 7b1e6a1 ○ Change all courses link text
 - c29ed05 ○ End A/B test of "browse all courses" link.
 - f5f4437 ○ Reduce DB queries in My Courses page

```
$ git merge --no-ff
```

Keep your history linear
so that you can
make sense of it

1. Make atomic commits
2. Write good commit messages
3. Revise history before sharing
4. Use single purpose branches
5. Keep your history linear

COMMIT
~ **NO** ~
NUISANCE

Questions?

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