

2.1.1 Release Types

Table 2.1.1-1 specifies the content of each of the [Release Format 2 Release Types](#) .

This table is followed by illustrations of each of the [Release Types](#) using the small same pattern of content development over seven release cycles. These illustrations highlight the key differences and the [Relationships](#) between the [Release Types](#) .

Table 2.1.1-1: SNOMED CT Release Types

Release Type	Description
Full	The files representing each type of component contain every version of every component ever released.
Snapshot	The files representing each type of component contain one version of every component released up to the time of the snapshot. The version of each component contained in a snapshot is the most recent version of that component at the time of the snapshot.
Delta	The files representing each type of component contain only component versions created since the previous release. Each component version in a delta release represents either a new component or a change to an existing component.

The seven columns in each of the following illustrations represent the content of seven releases (numbered 1-7). Each [component](#) is identified by a letters (A-K). A [component](#) version is represented by the identifying letter followed by a number (1-7) representing the release cycle in which that [component](#) version became effective.

[Figure 2.1.1-1](#) shows the content of a series of [full releases](#). The yellow background color highlights the set of [component](#) versions that are also present in the snapshot for the same [release version](#) (see [Figure 2.1.1-3](#)). [component](#) versions are shown in gray in releases versions after they have been superseded by a new [component](#) version. Newly added [component](#) versions, shown in red, are also present in the delta for the same [release version](#) (see [Figure 2.1.1-2](#)).

The content of the [full release](#) in any chosen version is identical to the combined content of all the [snapshot releases](#) up to and including that version. Thus adding a [delta release](#) to the previous version of the [full release](#) creates the [full release](#) for the new version. The [snapshot release](#) is derived from the [full release](#) by removing all except the most recent version of each [component](#) .

<i>Earlier</i> <-- FULL RELEASES FOR SEVEN RELEASE CYCLES --> <i>Later</i>						
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
A,1	A,1	A,1	A,1	A,1	A,1	A,1
B,1	B,1	B,1	A,4	A,4	A,4	A,4
C,1	B,2	B,2	B,1	B,1	B,1	B,1
D,1	C,1	C,1	B,2	B,2	B,2	B,2
E,1	D,1	C,3	C,1	C,1	B,6	B,6
	E,1	D,1	C,3	C,3	C,1	C,1
	F,2	E,1	C,4	C,4	C,3	C,3
	G,2	F,2	D,1	D,1	C,4	C,4
		F,3	E,1	E,1	C,6	C,6
		G,2	F,2	F,2	D,1	D,1
		H,3	F,3	F,3	E,1	E,1
			G,2	G,2	F,2	F,2
			H,3	H,3	F,3	F,3
			I,4	I,4	G,2	G,2
				J,5	H,3	H,3
					H,6	H,6
					I,4	H,7
					J,5	I,4
						J,5
						K,7

Figure 2.1.1-1: Full release illustration

<i>Earlier</i> <-- DELTA RELEASES FOR SEVEN RELEASE CYCLES --> <i>Later</i>						
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
A,1			A,4			
B,1	B,2				B,6	
C,1		C,3	C,4		C,6	
D,1						
E,1						
	F,2	F,3				
	G,2					
		H,3			H,6	H,7
			I,4			
				J,5		
						K,7

Figure 2.1.1-2: Delta release illustration

<i>Earlier</i> <-- SNAPSHOT RELEASES FOR SEVEN RELEASE CYCLES --> <i>Later</i>						
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
A,1	A,1	A,1	A,4	A,4	A,4	A,4
B,1	B,2	B,2	B,2	B,2	B,6	B,6
C,1	C,1	C,3	C,4	C,4	C,6	C,6
D,1	D,1	D,1	D,1	D,1	D,1	D,1
E,1	E,1	E,1	E,1	E,1	E,1	E,1
	F,2	F,3	F,3	F,3	F,3	F,3
	G,2	G,2	G,2	G,2	G,2	G,2
		H,3	H,3	H,3	H,6	H,7
			I,4	I,4	I,4	I,4
				J,5	J,5	J,5
						K,7

Figure 2.1.1-3: Snapshot release illustration

Note: In a real [SNOMED CT release](#) each of the letters A-K would be replaced by a [component id](#) (a [SNOMED CT identifier](#)) and each of the release cycle numbers 1-7 would be replaced by the [effectiveTime](#) of a [release version](#) .