

2.1 Choosing a Release Type to import

The first step in selecting the set of [release files](#) to be imported is to decide which [Release Type](#) will be used. [SNOMED CT Release Format 2](#) specifies three distinct [Release Types](#): [full release](#), [snapshot release](#) and [delta release](#) . These are described in the table below.

The [Release Format 2](#) specification states that:

- The [SNOMED CT International Release](#) will include all three [Release Types](#) ;
- A [SNOMED CT Extension Release](#) must include the [full release](#) ;
- A [SNOMED CT Extension Release](#) may optionally include a [snapshot release](#) and/or [delta release](#) .

A [SNOMED CT-enabled terminology server](#) must be able to import data from a [full release](#) because this is the only [Release Type](#) that is required to be produced by all [Extension](#) developers. A [SNOMED CT-enabled terminology server](#) should also be able to import from other [Release Types](#) where these are available as these may allow more efficient updating.

The choice of a particular [Release Type](#) depends on the type of [terminology views](#) that the [terminology server](#) is designed to support and on whether this is an initial import or a subsequent update.

Note: The requirement to be able to import data from the [full release](#) does not mean that all [terminology servers](#) must provide access to the complete historical set of data provided by a [full release](#). The [full release](#) can be selectively imported to used to populate a [snapshot view](#) for applications that do not require access to historical data.