

## 3 Release Types, Packages and Files

This section covers several general topics related to SNOMED CT [release packages](#) and [release files](#) including:

- [3.1 Common Features of All Release Files](#)
- [3.2 Release Types](#)
- [3.3 Naming Conventions for Release Packages and Files](#)
- [3.4 Release Package Contents](#)

The following two sections provide detailed specifications of the release files.

- Section [4 Component Release Files Specification](#) contains details of release files that represent the main SNOMED CT components:
  - Concepts
  - Descriptions
  - Relationships
- Section [5 Reference Set Release Files Specification](#) contains details of release files that customize and enhance SNOMED CT by representing:
  - Subsets of concepts and descriptions
  - Maps to other code systems
  - Language and dialect preferences for different terms
  - Annotation of components
  - Associations between components
  - Other forms of configuration and extensibility



### Historical Note on Current and Previous Release File Formats

The standard format in which [SNOMED CT](#) has been distributed since 2012 is known as [Release Format 2\(RF2\)](#). It was developed in response to extensive feedback on the original release file format, now known as [Release Format 1\(RF1\)](#), in which [SNOMED CT](#) was distributed between its first release in 2002 and 2012. The RF1 format is now deprecated and no longer supported.