Maintaining a SNOMED CT Translation

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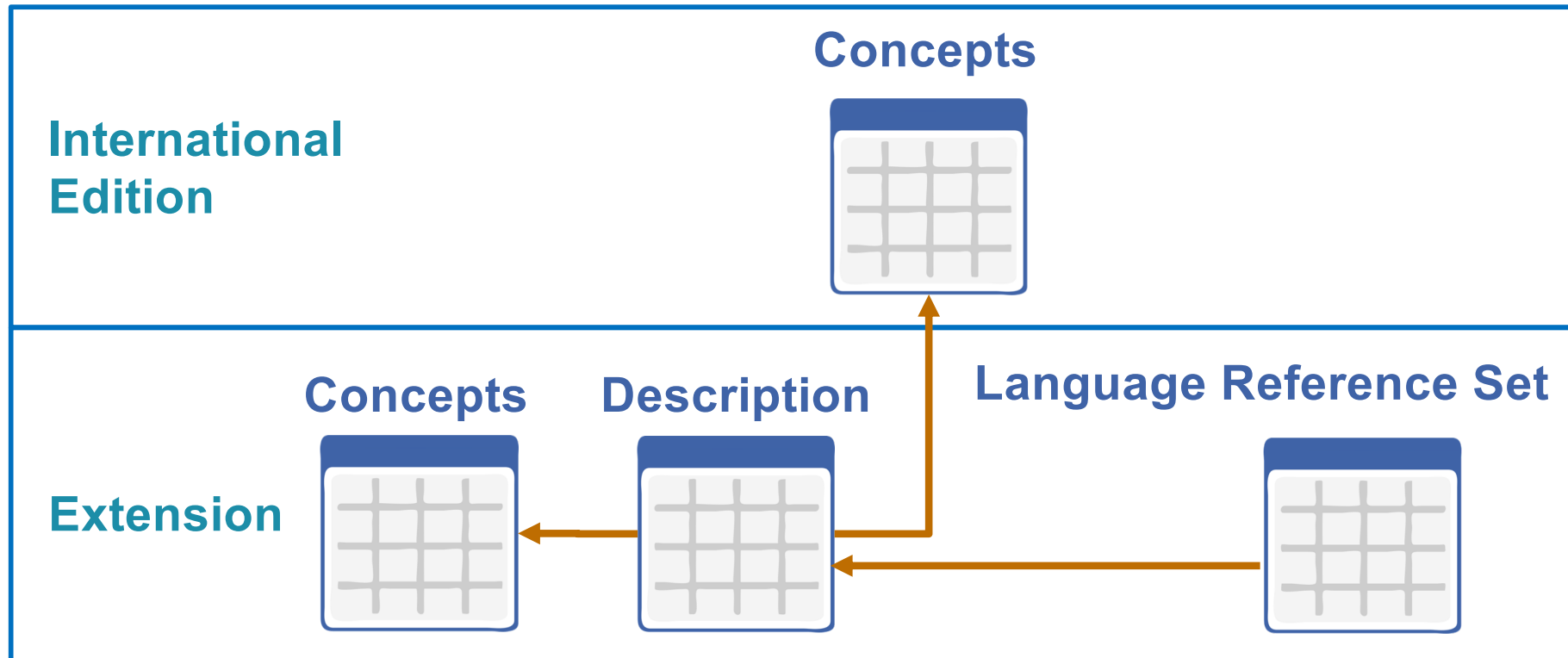
Overview

- Translation deliverables
- Maintenance dependencies
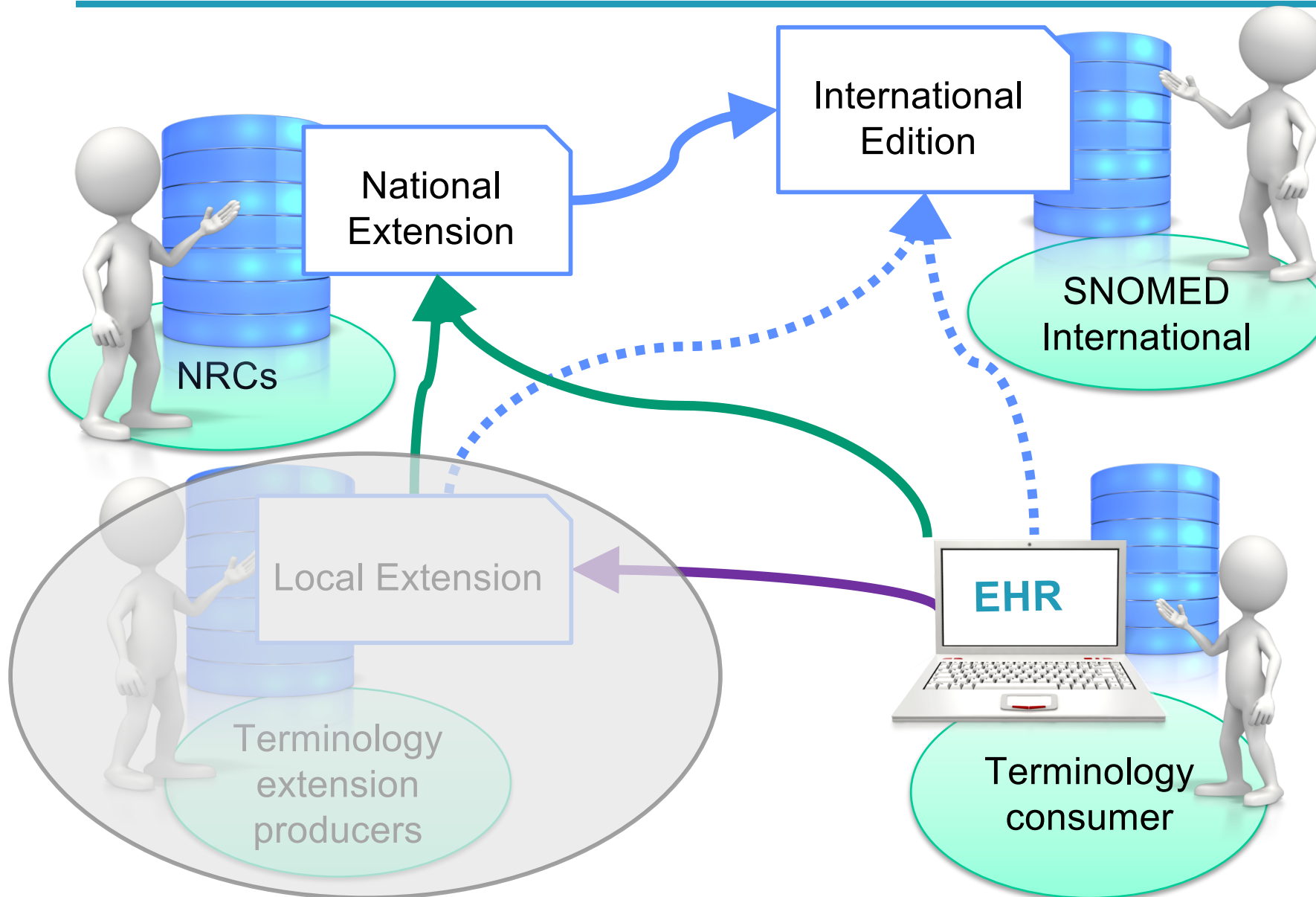- Maintenance triggers
- Maintenance tasks

Translation Deliverables

International Edition

Concepts

Extension

Concepts   **Description**   **Language Reference Set**

- Translations belong to a SNOMED CT extension
- Translations are dependent on the International Edition
  - They **cannot** be implemented on their own
  - Concepts are distributed with the International Edition or extension concepts

Maintenance Dependencies

Maintenance Triggers

- Addition of new concepts
  - Both in the International Edition and extension
  - Inactivated concepts retain active descriptions
- Changes to descriptions in the International Edition may impact translated descriptions
- Changes to linguistic and translation principles
- User requests for changes
- User requests for addition of synonyms
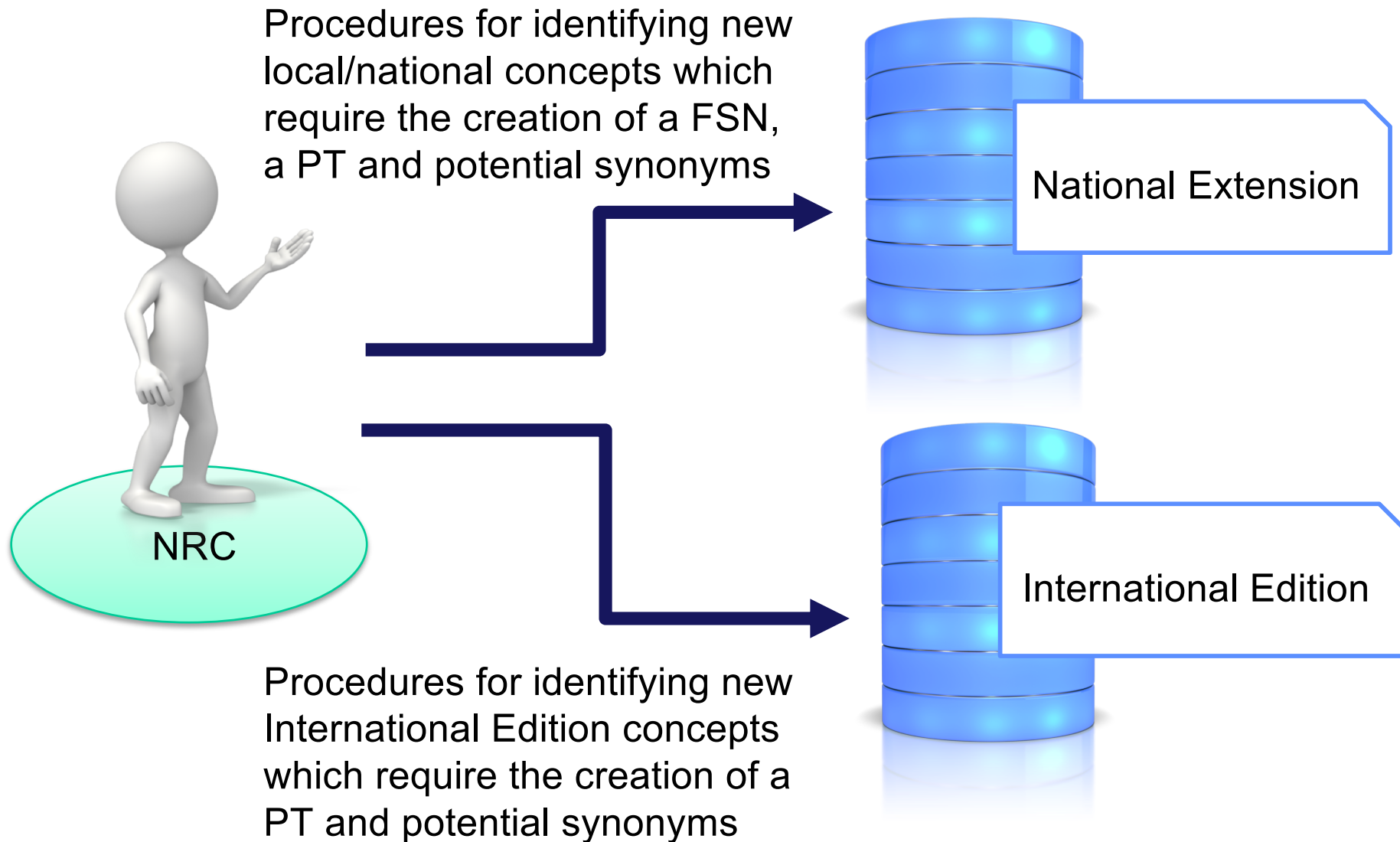
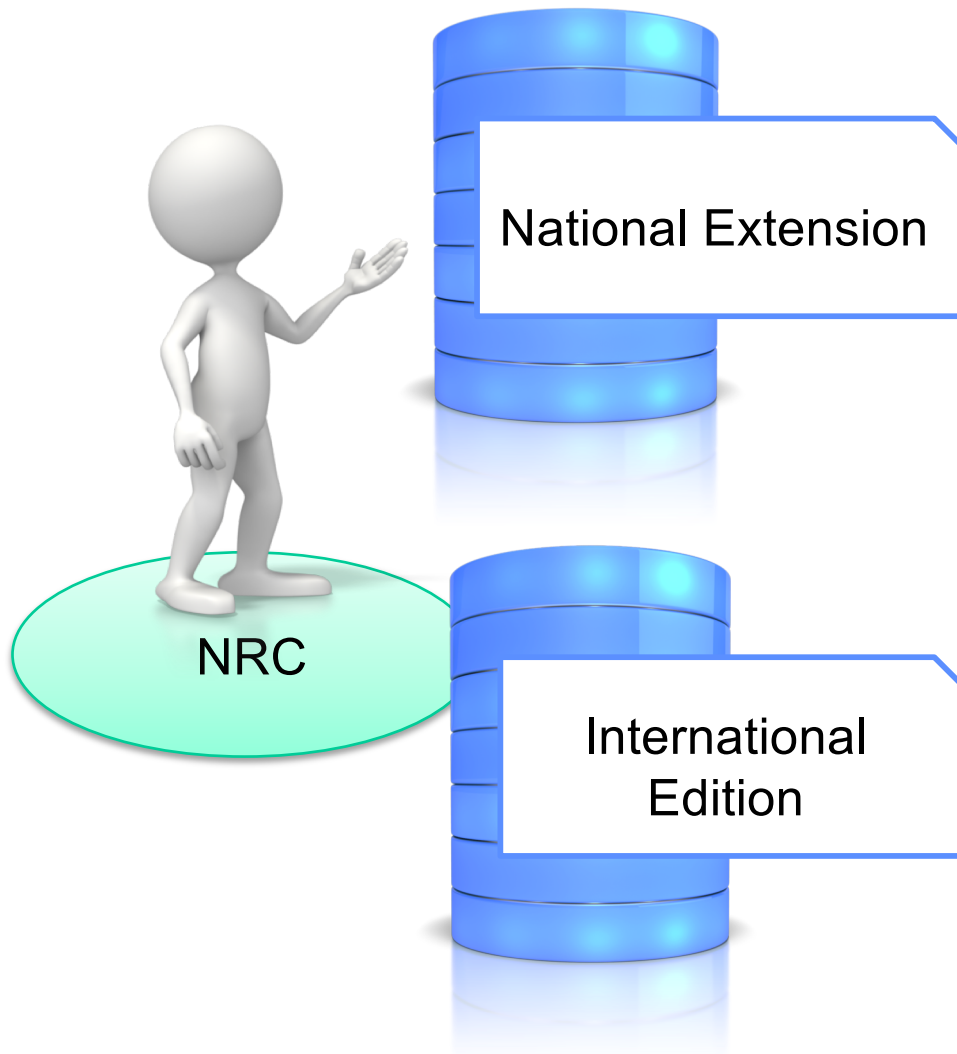Translation **TRIGGERS**

Maintenance Tasks

- Maintenance of a SNOMED CT translation involves
  - Adding descriptions for new concepts
  - Changing existing descriptions
    - Review and update existing descriptions
  - Managing requests for changes to descriptions
  - Managing requests for addition of synonyms

Descriptions for New Concepts

Procedures for identifying new local/national concepts which require the creation of a FSN, a PT and potential synonyms

NRC

National Extension

International Edition

Procedures for identifying new International Edition concepts which require the creation of a PT and potential synonyms

Identification of New Concepts

National Extension

NRC

International Edition

Service to identify new extension concepts:

Compare 'delta release of components in extension module(-s)' with snapshot of previous release.
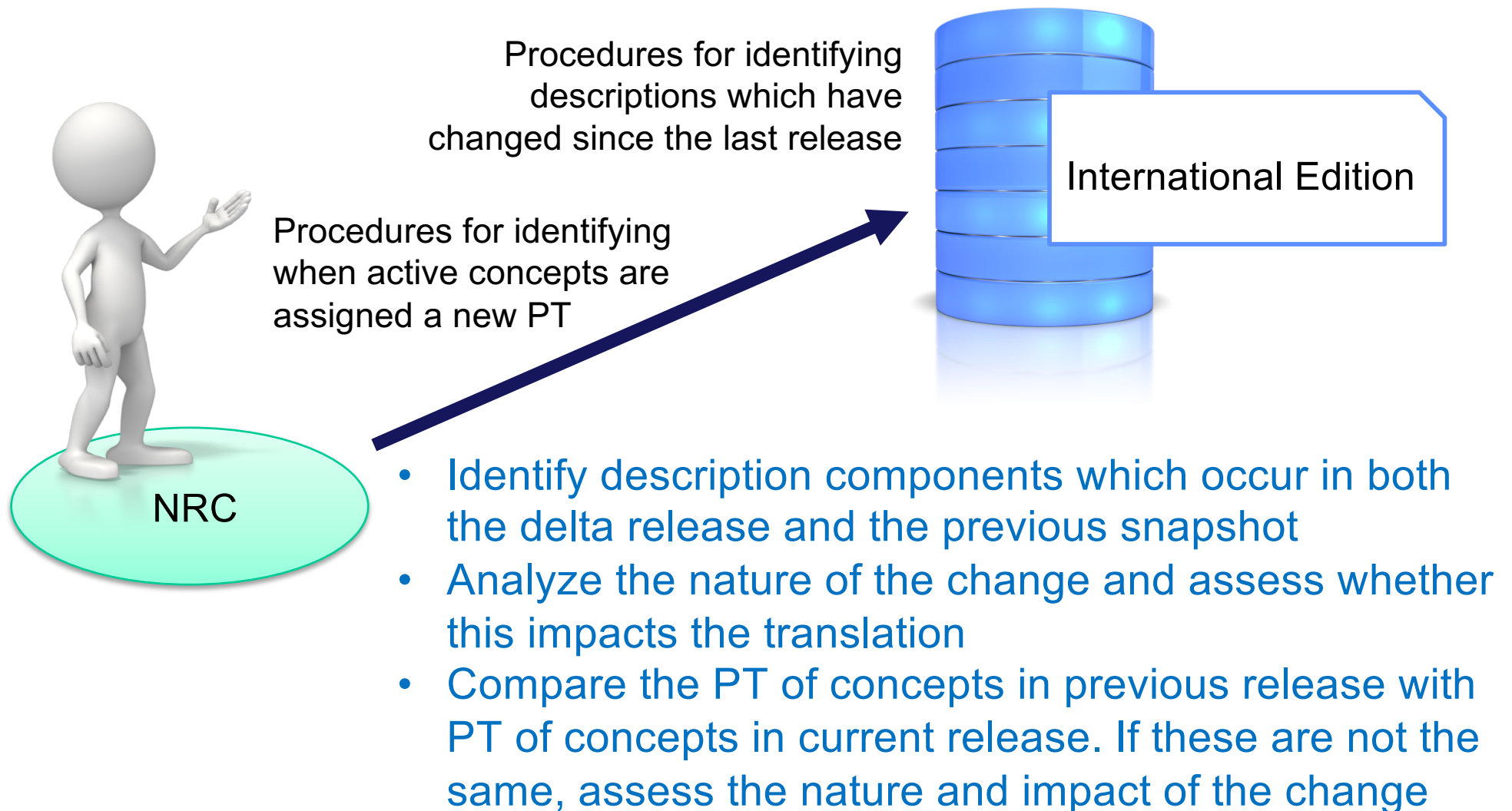
Components which only appear in the delta release are new components

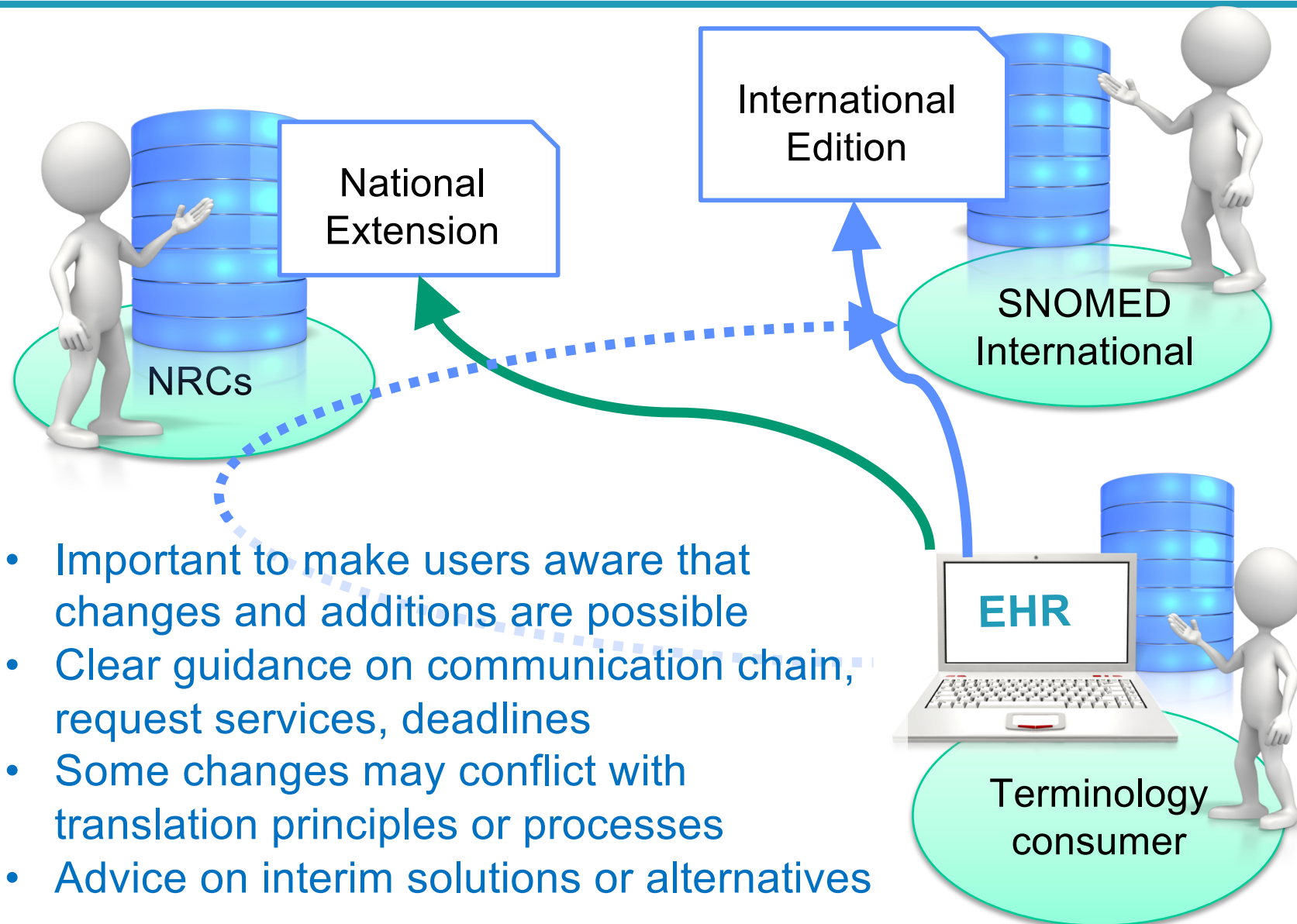**Service to identify new concepts in International Edition:**

Compare 'delta release of components in International Edition modules' with snapshot of previous release.

Components which only appear in the delta release are new components
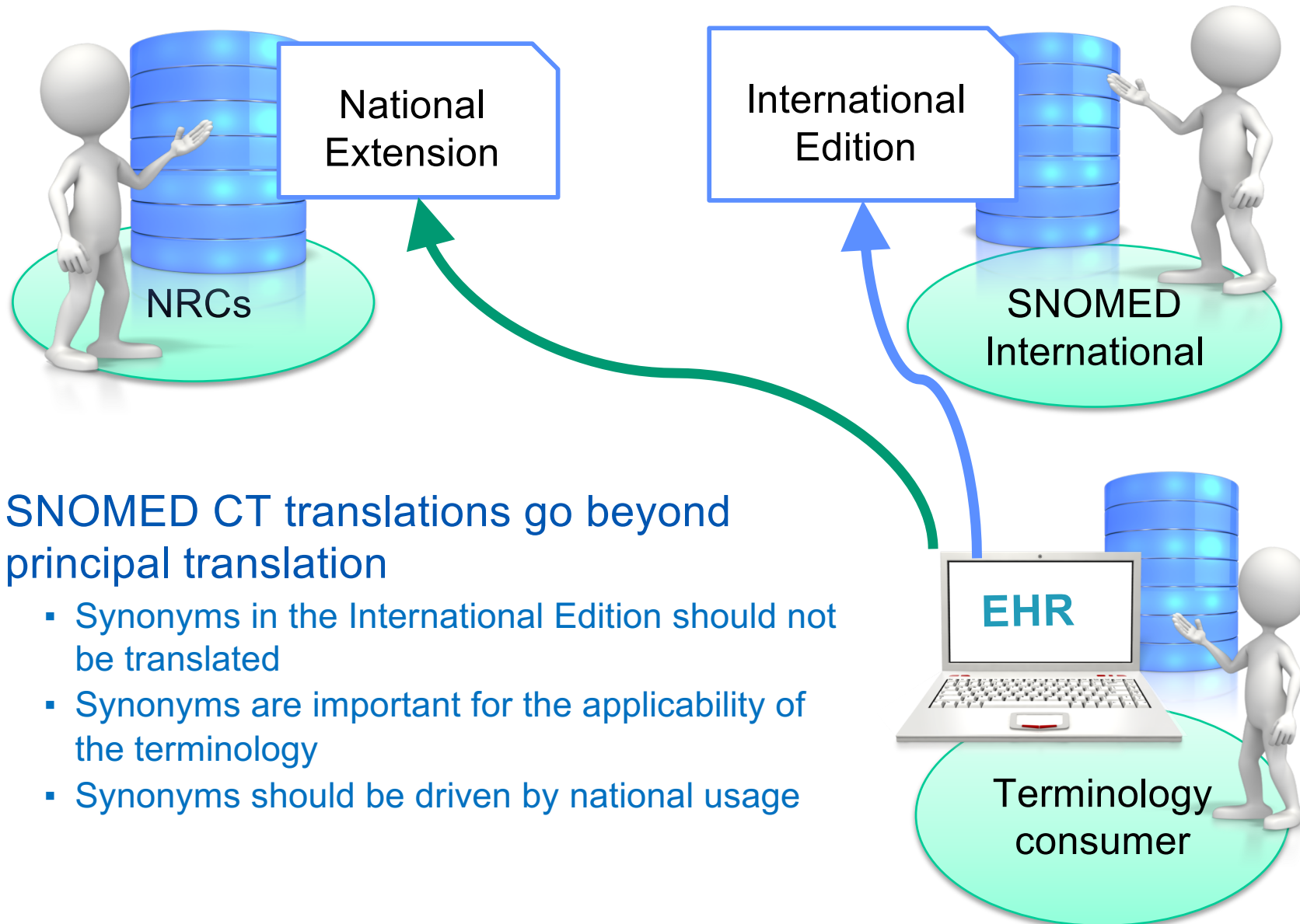
Changes to Existing Descriptions

Procedures for identifying descriptions which have changed since the last release

Procedures for identifying when active concepts are assigned a new PT

International Edition

NRC

- Identify description components which occur in both the delta release and the previous snapshot
- Analyze the nature of the change and assess whether this impacts the translation
- Compare the PT of concepts in previous release with PT of concepts in current release. If these are not the same, assess the nature and impact of the change

User Requests for Description Changes

National Extension

International Edition

NRCs

SNOMED International

EHR

Terminology consumer

- Important to make users aware that changes and additions are possible
- Clear guidance on communication chain, request services, deadlines
- Some changes may conflict with translation principles or processes
- Advice on interim solutions or alternatives

User Requests for Synonyms

National Extension

NRCs

International Edition

SNOMED International

EHR

Terminology consumer

- SNOMED CT translations go beyond principal translation
  - Synonyms in the International Edition should not be translated
  - Synonyms are important for the applicability of the terminology
  - Synonyms should be driven by national usage

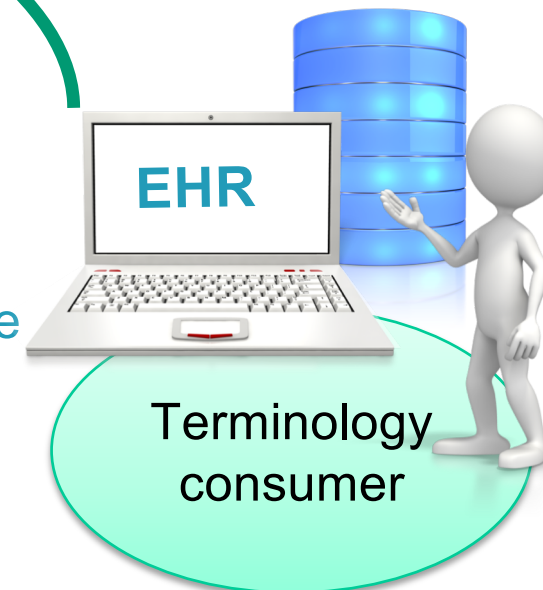# User Requests for Synonyms

National Extension

NRCs

- Synonym
  - A word or phrase that expresses the meaning of a SNOMED CT concept in a specified language

- Considerations
  - Very specific or local synonyms may not go into the National Extension, but may benefit from being kept in a separate extension
    - Local descriptions and language reference sets

EHR

Terminology consumer

Summary

- Maintaining a SNOMED CT translation is an ongoing effort and responsibility
- Creating an overview of dependencies, triggers and tasks helps the maintenance process

- Providing clear instructions to terminology consumers on
  - What is possible wrt addition and updates to a translated version of SNOMED CT
  - Communication flow and request services
  - Advice on the creation of synonyms

Links to Further Information

- SNOMED CT Worldwide
  - http://www.snomed.org/snomed-ct/snomed-ct-worldwide
- Translations Home
  - Includes Information sheets, supporting materials and resources
  - https://confluence.ihtsdotools.org/display/TRAN/
- Refset and Translation Tool
  - https://refset.ihtsdotools.org
- Extensions Practical Guide
  - http://snomed.org/EXTPG