# Building a FHIR Based Terminology Service

## Introduction

This documentation describes a basic terminology service in terms of the eco-system described by FHIR, and describes how one would be built

Note: an actual implementation of the capabilities described in this document is available at [[location]]

## Basic Concepts

This section describes the basic underlying concepts for applications that use terminologies.

### Codes, Code systems, Value Sets, and Maps

Throughout any application that handles healthcare data, there’s lists of codes everywhere. Sometimes, a list of code is a really simple enumeration:

Action List

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Code | Meaning |
| C | Create |
| R | Read |
| U | Update |
| D | Delete |
| E | Execute |

Typically, these are hard coded as enumerations in the code (e.g. Java Enum), and there’s pieces of UI all over the place where the user gets to pick one – sometimes they pick from a pick list, and other times it’s implicit in some action they take.

### The key functions of a terminology service

### How value sets are built

### How identification works

## Terminology System Maintenance

## Editing Value sets

## Editing Concept Maps

## Terminology Editor

## Functional Services on FHIR

### Getting a list of valid codes

### Is this code valid?

### Build me a representation

### Does this code mean the same as that code?