Building Privacy-Preserving Cryptographic Credentials from Federated Online Identities

John Maheswaran
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Department of Computer Science
Yale University

Committee:
Bryan Ford (adviser)
Joan Feigenbaum
Ramakrishna Gummadi
Anil Somayaji (Carleton University)

Roadmap

1. Background
2. Work Overview
3. System Architecture
4. Credential Producers and Consumers
   - At -Large Credentials
   - Group Credentials
5. Evaluation
6. Conclusions

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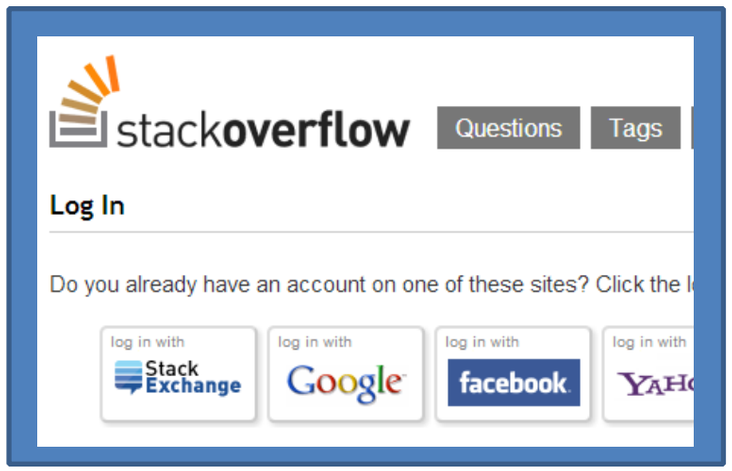

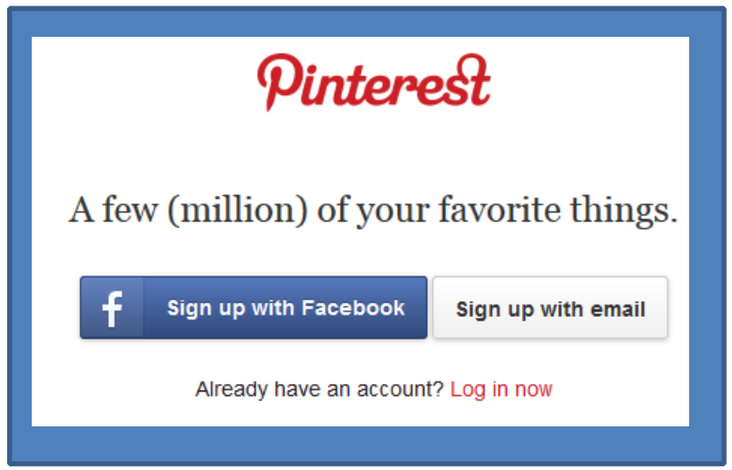

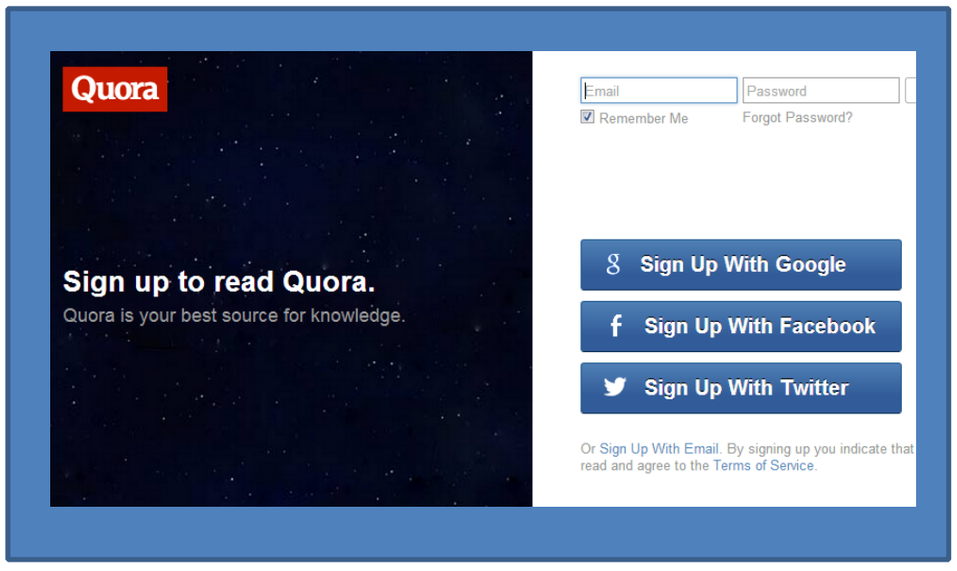

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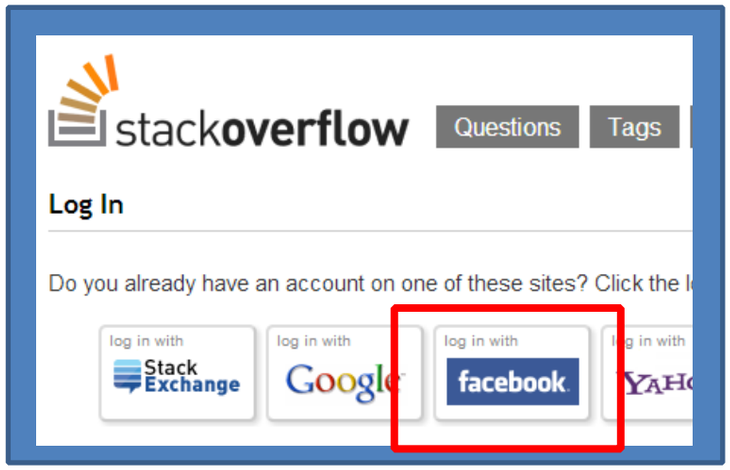

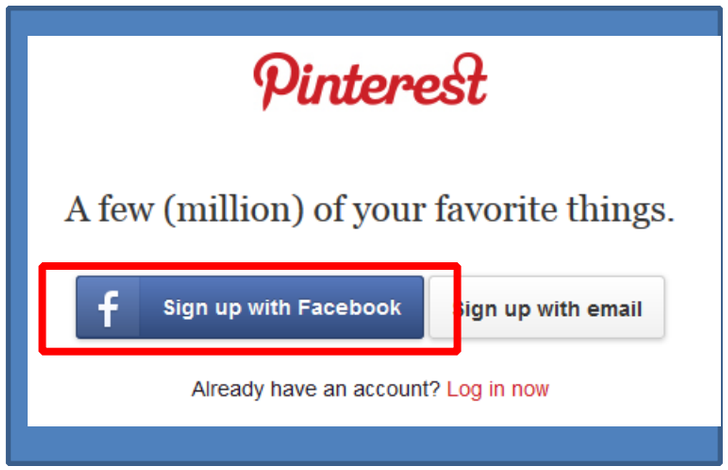

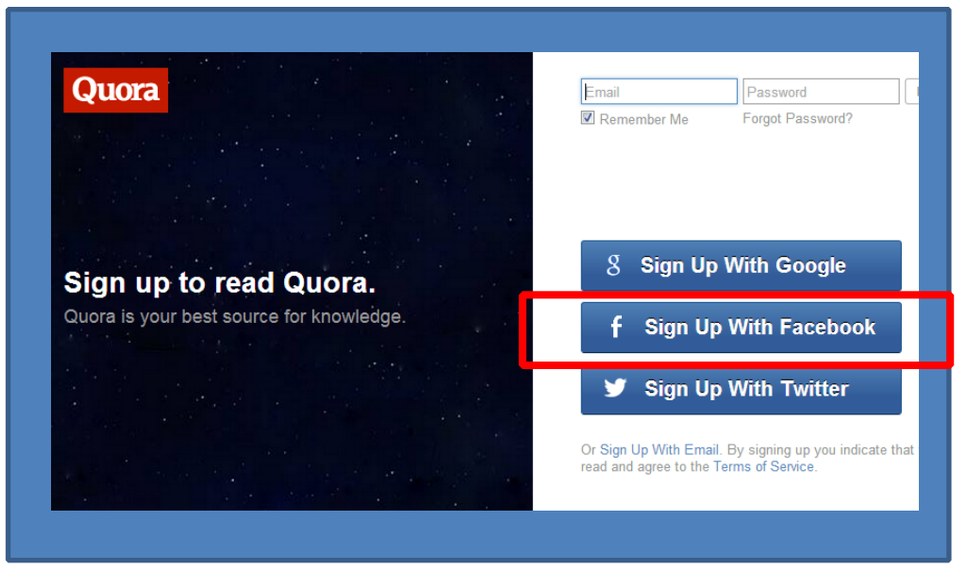

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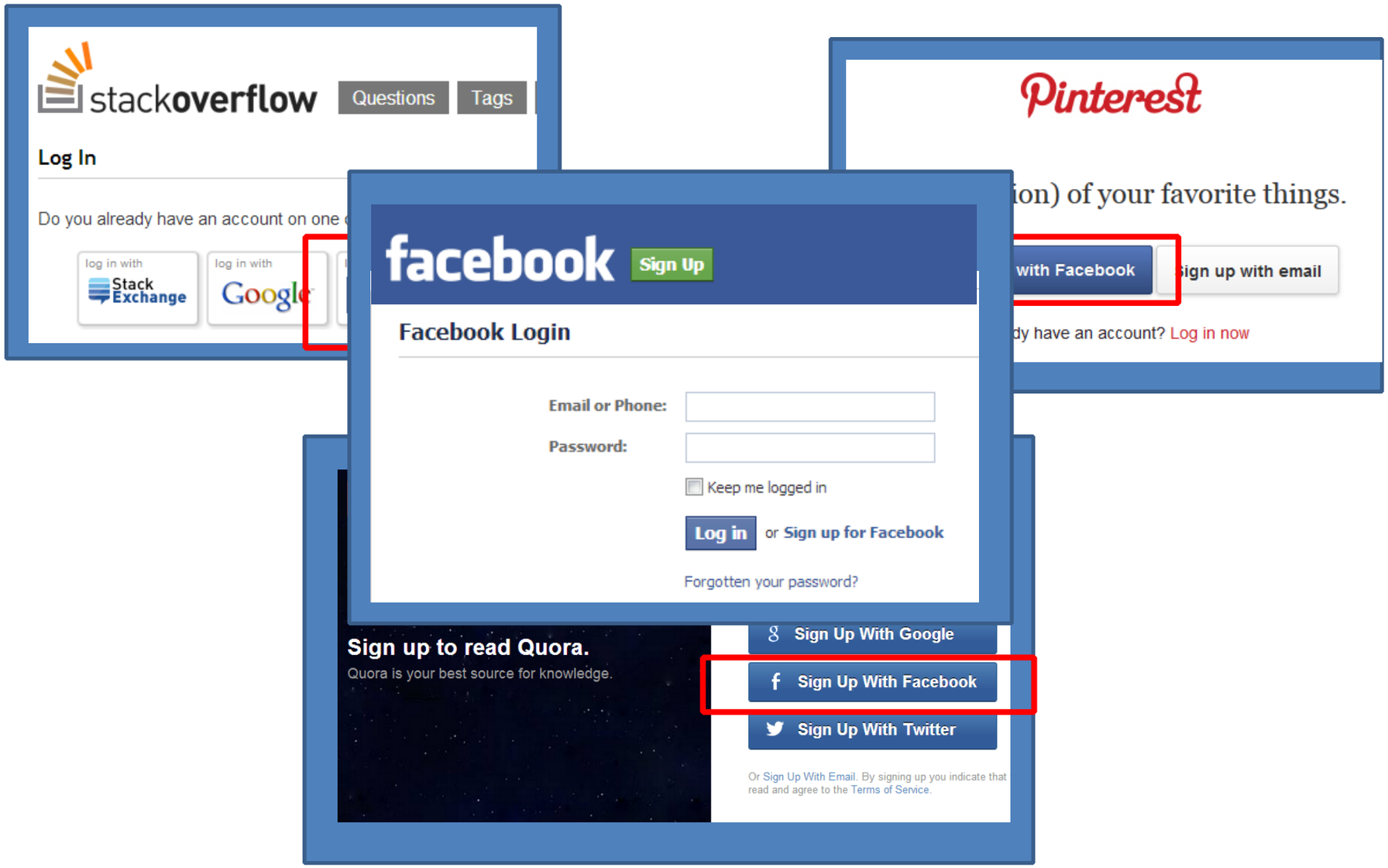

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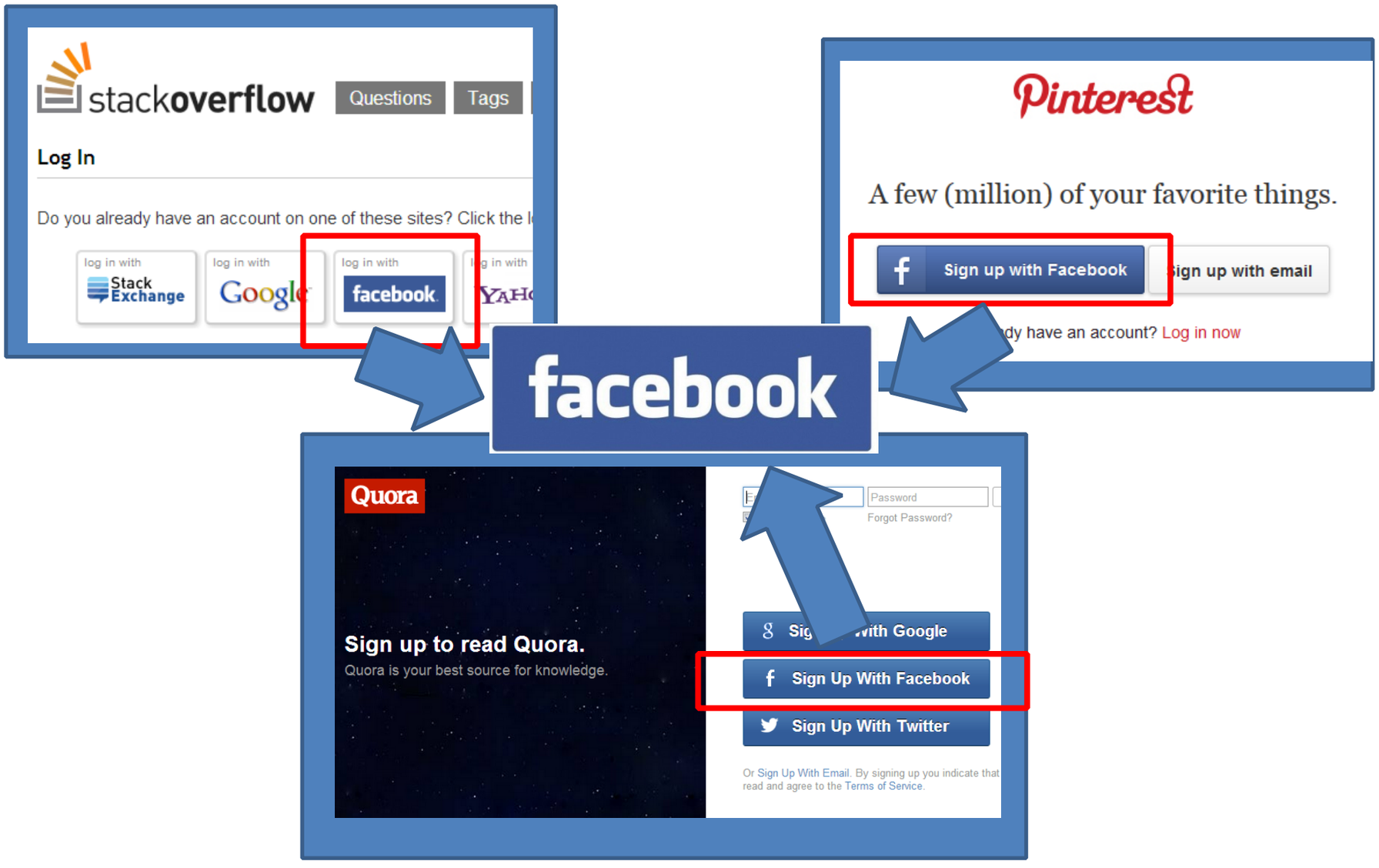

Background: Federated Authentication

Background: Federated Authentication

- Popular for managing online identities
- Examples: Facebook and PayPal
- Authentication protocols such as OpenID/OAuth
- Privacy cost: ID provider and applications can track users across all sites

Federated Authentication **Privacy Concerns**

- ID providers learns every application user logs into
- ID providers learns login time to every application for a user
- ID provider can impersonate user on applications
- Applications learn the user's true identity
- Applications learn user profile details e.g. friends lists, location

Federated Authentication **Privacy Concerns**

- Applications can edit user profile on ID provider e.g. post to timeline, edit personal info

- Applications can link user behavior across sites

- User data can be tracked and sold to advertisers

- Compromised federated ID account can log in as that user to all applications

Motivating Use Case: Wikipedia Anonymous Editing

- Privacy preserving login to Wikipedia
- In favor of anonymous editing
- Anonymous editing often abused - vandalism/spam
- Anonymous yet abuse resistant editing
- Allow users to edit pages without revealing their identities
- Allow admins to sanction site abusers

Motivating Use Case: Group Authenticated SecureDrop

- Verifiable whistleblowing without compromising privacy
- Allow a journalist to authenticate leaked documents without compromising source anonymity
- A whistleblower authenticates as a member of a group and signs document
- Journalist knows that the document came from a director at Evil Corp. Inc. but does not know which one

Related Work

- PseudoID Dey and Weis. [HotPets '10]
  - privacy protected federated login
  - does not handle key assignment or Sybil resistance
- Location privacy via private proximity testing Narayanan et al. [NDSS '11]
  - Proposed using social network as a PKI
- Opaak Maganis et al. [MobiSys '12]
  - provides Sybil resistance by relying on a cellphone as scare resource.
- SudoWeb Kontaxis et al. [Information Security 2011]
  - looked at limiting the amount of Facebook information disclosed to third party sites
  - did not consider anonymous online IDs

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Work Overview

- [Poster] Crypto-Book: Privacy Preserving Online Identities; **John Maheswaran**, David Isaac Wolinsky, Bryan Ford; SOSP '13 Poster Session (Symposium on Operating Systems Principles); and Diversity '13 Poster Session (Workshop on Diversity in Systems Research)

- [Extended abstract/WIP] Crypto-Book: Privacy Preserving Online Identities; **John Maheswaran**, David Isaac Wolinsky, Bryan Ford; SOSP '13 Works In Progress (WIP) Session (Symposium on Operating Systems Principles)

- [Paper] Crypto-Book: An Architecture for Privacy Preserving Online Identities; **John Maheswaran**, David Isaac Wolinsky, Bryan Ford; HotNets ’13 (Hot Topics in Networks ’13)

Work Overview

- [arXiv tech report] Crypto-Book: Bootstrapping Privacy Preserving Online Identities from Social Networks; **John Maheswaran**, Daniel Jackowitz, David Isaac Wolinsky, Lining Wang, Bryan Ford arXiv preprint arXiv:1406.4053, June 2014

- [Paper *(under submission)*] Building Privacy-Preserving Cryptographic Credentials from Federated Online Identities; **John Maheswaran**, Daniel Jackowitz, Ennan Zhai, David Isaac Wolinsky, Bryan Ford; CoNEXT ’15 (ACM Conference on emerging Networking Experiments and Technologies)

Press coverage

- The workshop on diversity in systems research 2013; Christopher Stewart and Vishakha Gupta; **ACM SIGOPS Operating Systems Review** 48.1 (2014): 103-106.

- The federation of our digital identities; **Is Nerd Science blog**; http://isnerd.co/2014/07/05/federated-identity-privacy-namecoin/

- CryptoBook; **Layer 9 Computer networking and systems research blog**; http://www.layer9.org/2013/11/hotnets-13-cryptobook.html

Online resources

- Open source code is available on GitHub:
  - github.com/jyale/cobra
- Project websites:
  - www.crypto-book.com
  - www.cryptobook.ninja

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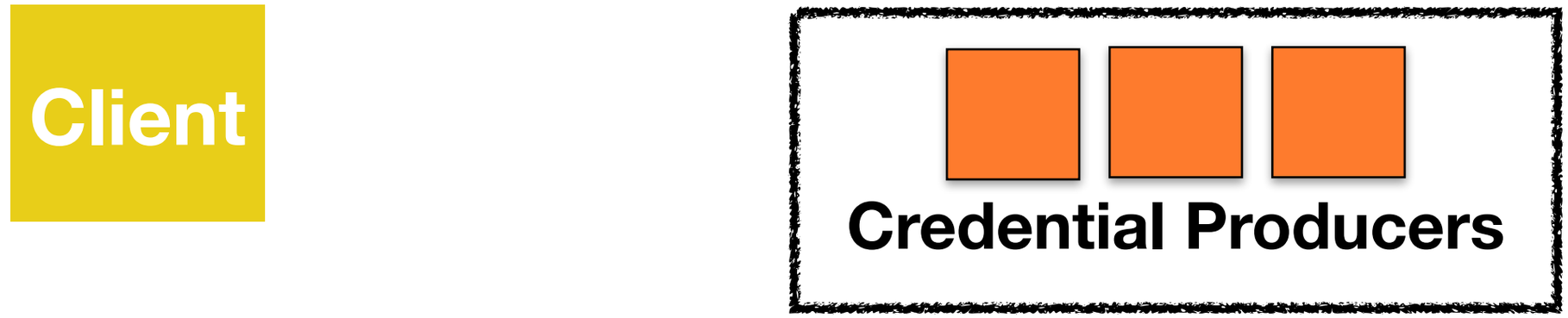
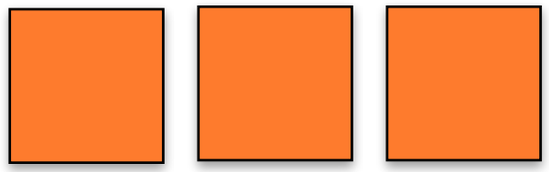
System Components



System Components

Client

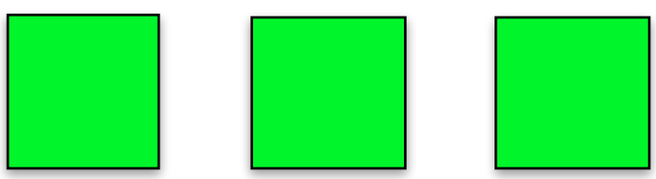


Credential Producers

Verify a client's ID with federated ID provider, then issue client with privacy preserving credentials

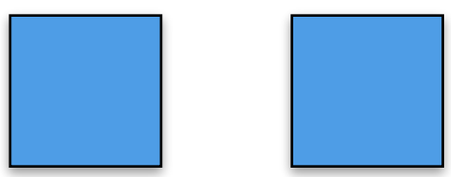
Federated ID Provider

Verify a clients **privacy preserving credentials** and authenticate client to applications



Applications

Credential Consumers



Security Properties

- **Anonymity** No single party can unmask a pseudonym to a federated ID

- **Unlinkability** It is not possible to tell if two pseudonyms are controlled by the same person

- **Accountability** (abuse resistance) A user can be punished if they misbehave (e.g. spam/troll)

- **Unforgeability** (no impersonation) No one can act as the user and authenticate as them

Threat Model: **Threats**

- **Clients** post low quality content/spam
- **Federated ID providers and applications**
  - de-anonymize client
  - learn what applications client accesses
- **Multiple applications** link client's identity across sites

Threat Model: **Assumptions**

- At most (t-1) of n credential producers are dishonest
  Others are honest-but-curious.

- Do not consider network level attacks
  Clients can connect to system components via anonymous networks (e.g. Tor)

- Anonymous network communication/cryptographic primitive compromise are outside of scope

Client

- Person browsing the web
- Interacts with other system components via browser
- Interacts with all other components in system
- Goal is to login to and use a web application

Application

Application

- A web site that someone wants to use
- Client authenticates to log in to their account on that website
- Many applications now support federated authentication (e.g. Log in with Facebook/Log in with LinkedIn etc)
- Examples:

Quora

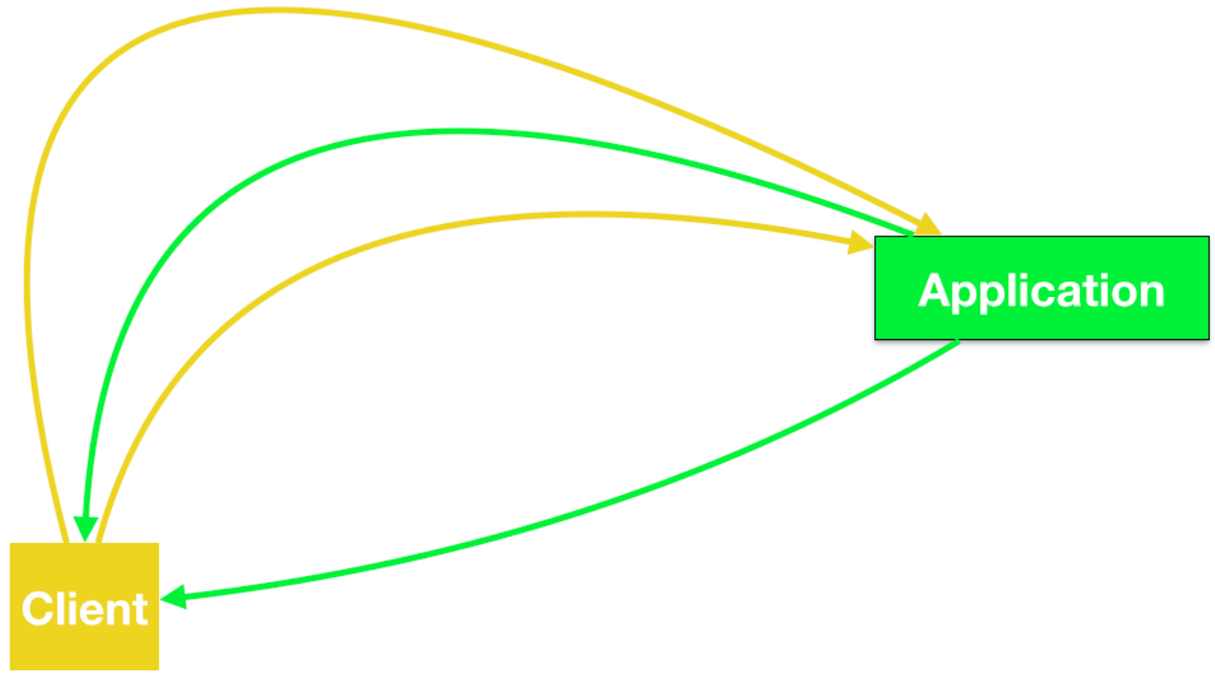
Pinterest

stackoverflow

slideshare

venmo

Non-federated client-application interaction



Non-federated Client-Application interaction

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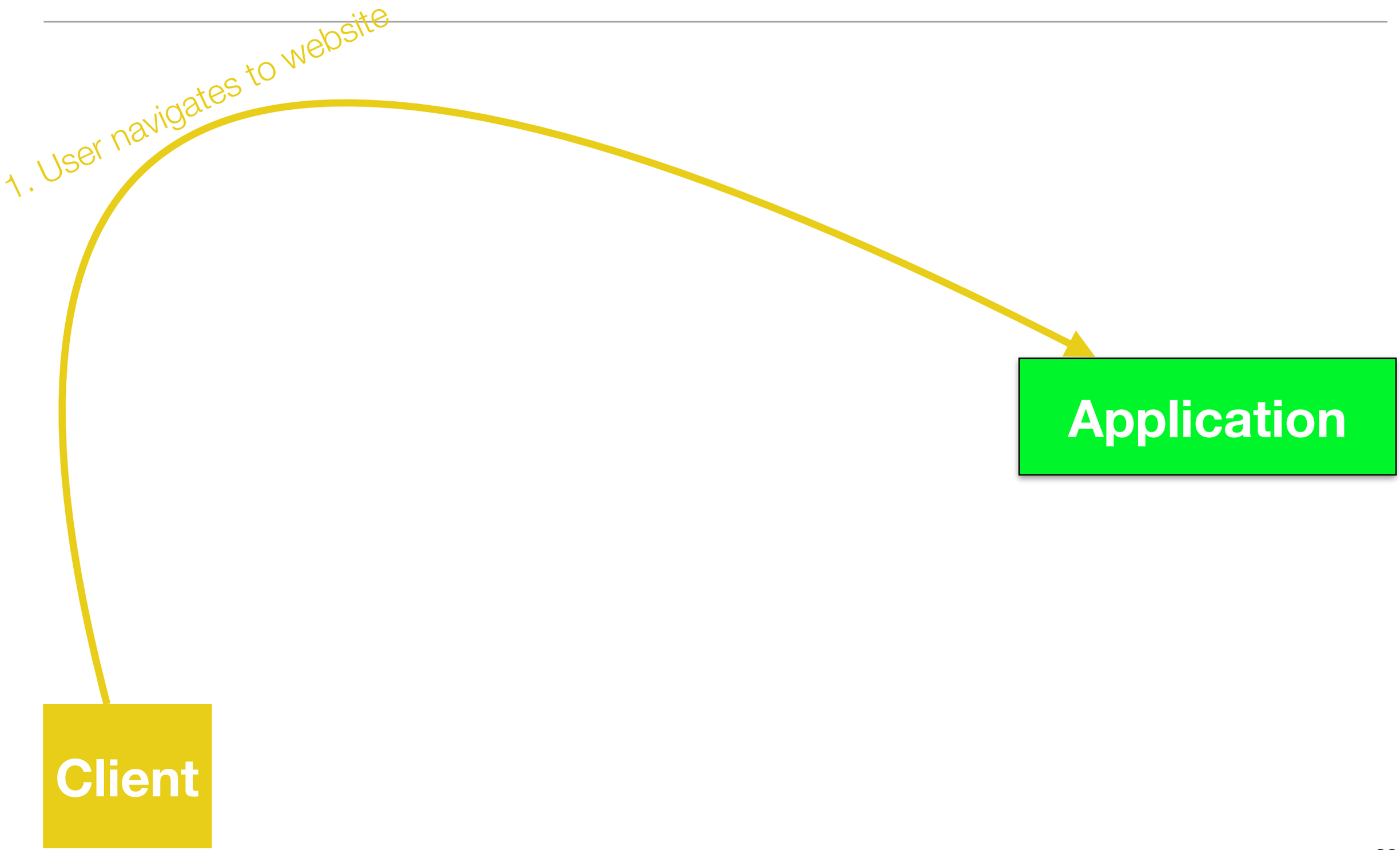

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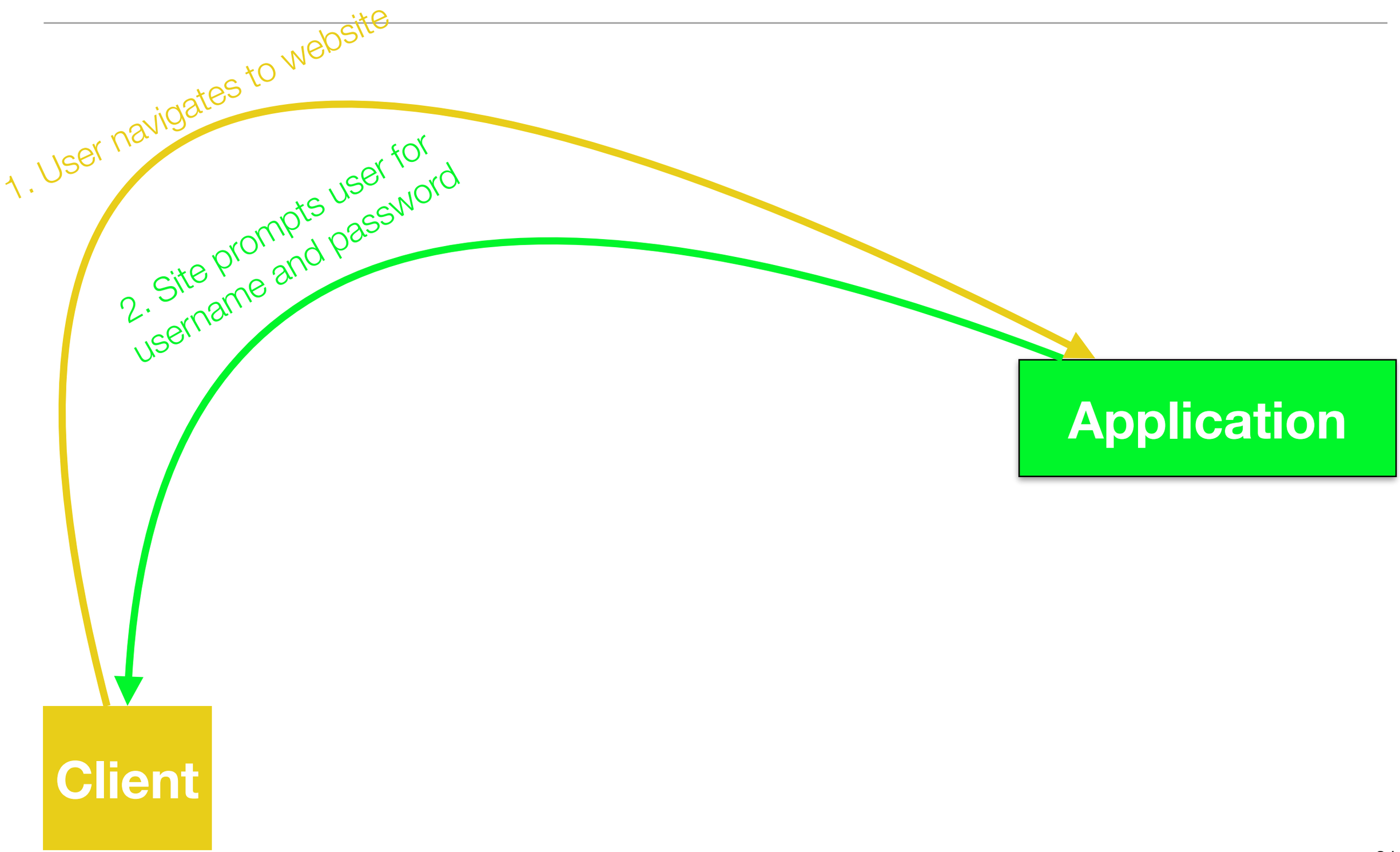

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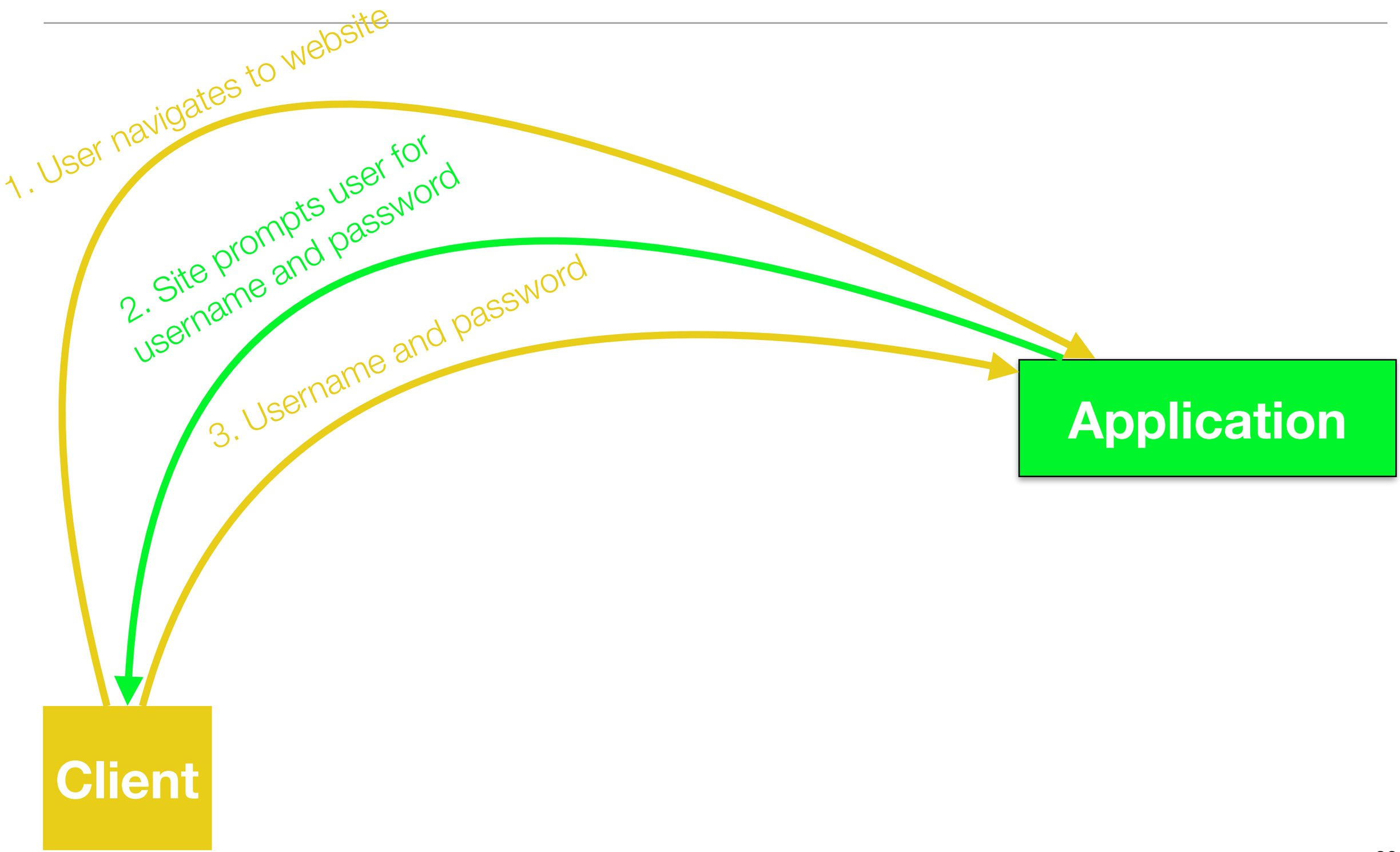

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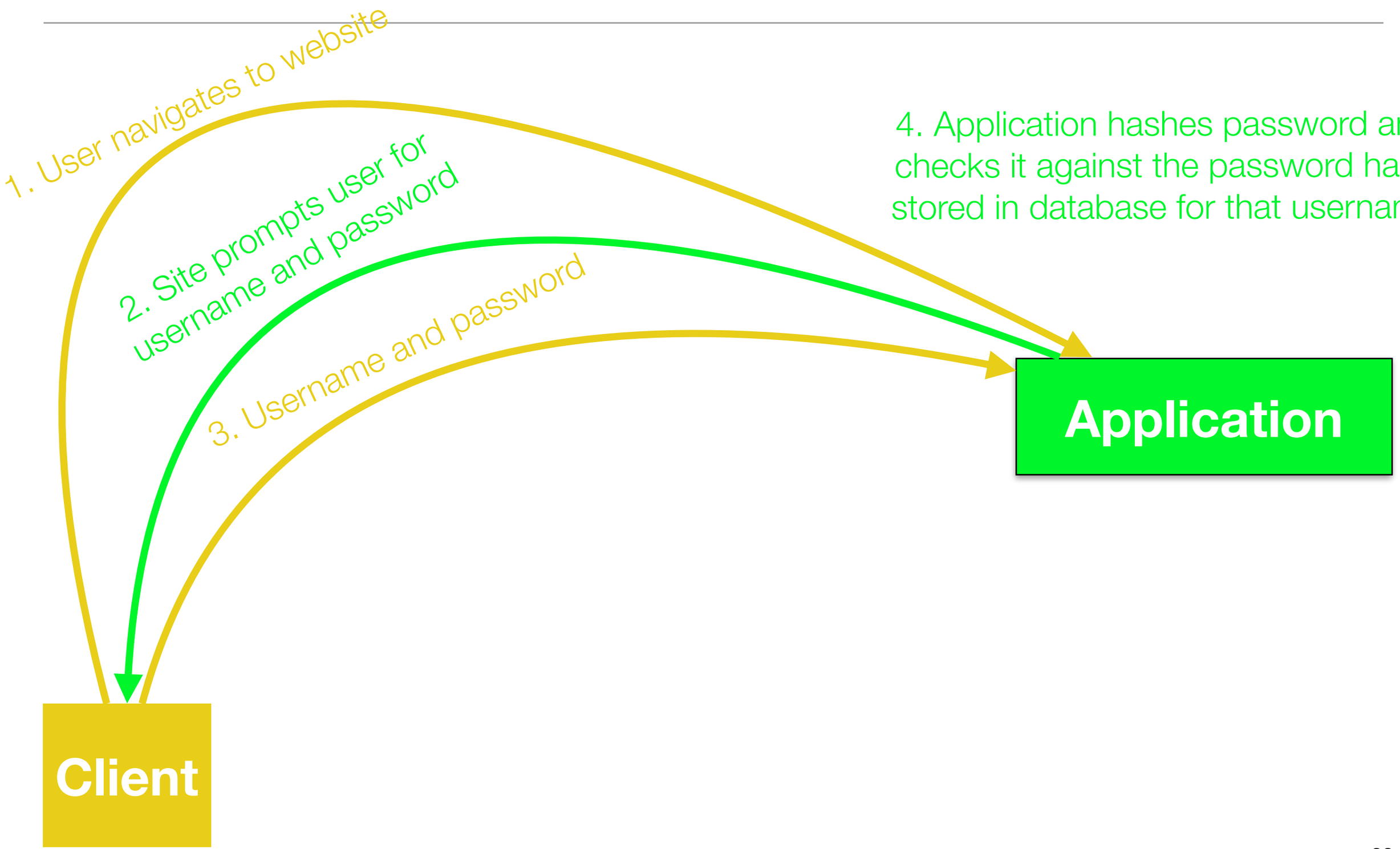

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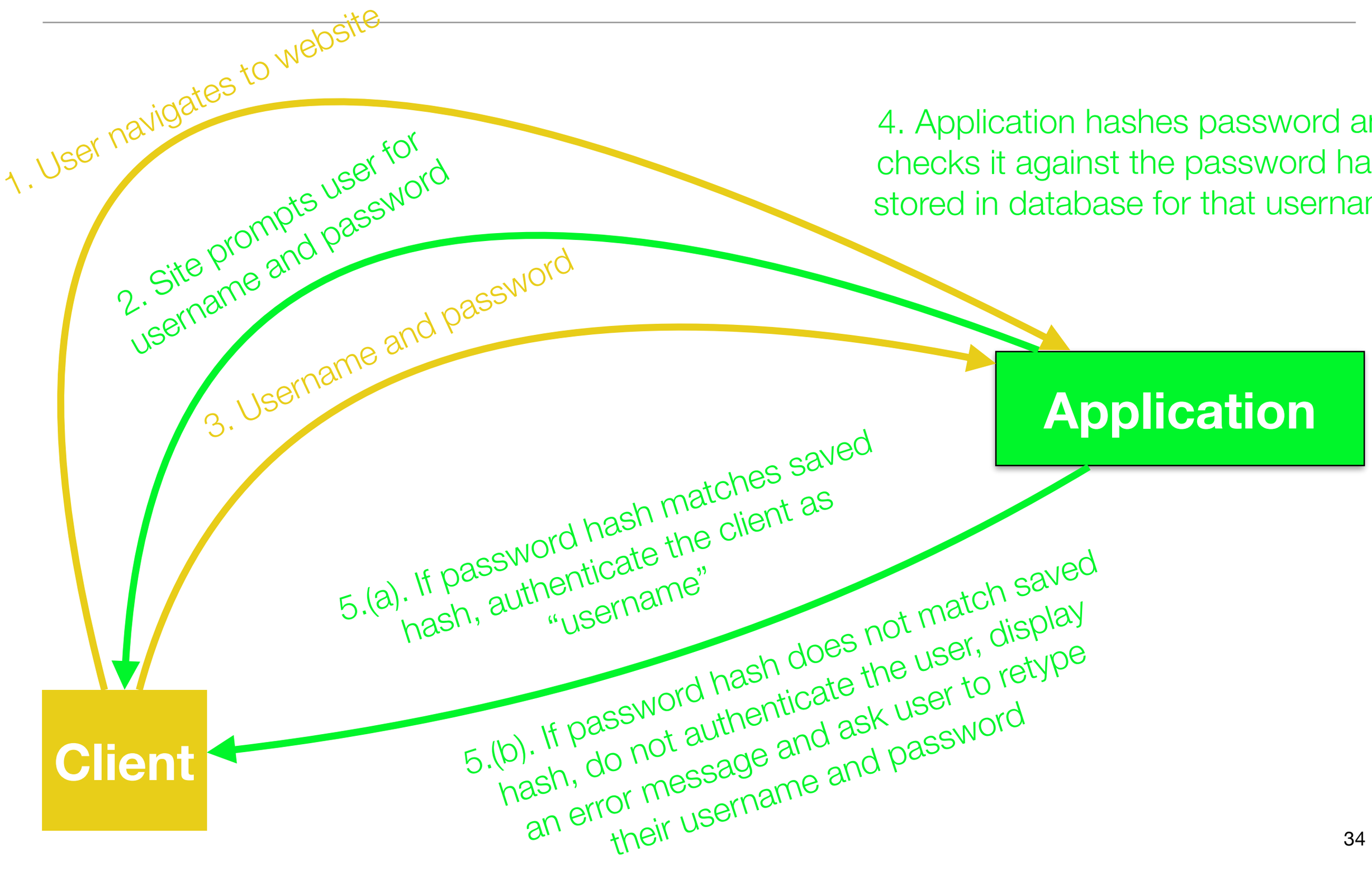


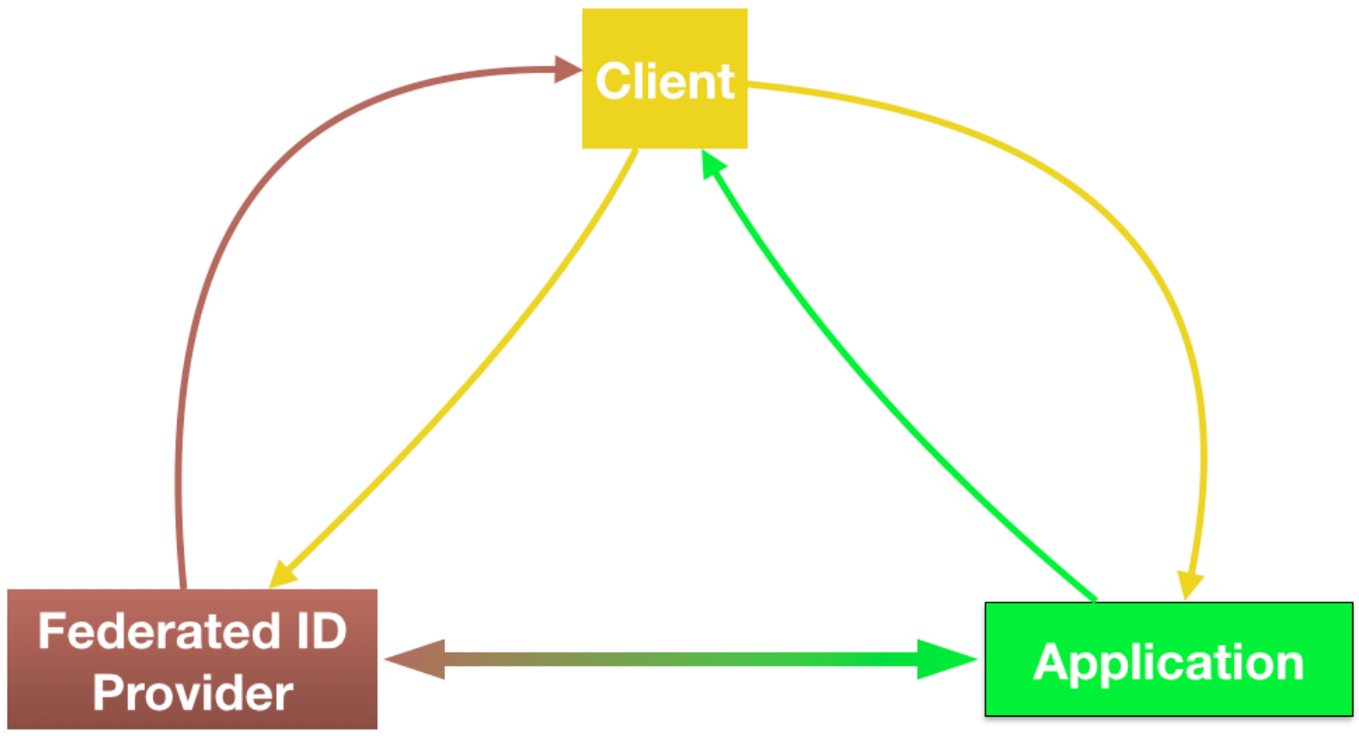
Federated Identity Provider

Federated ID Provider

- Authenticates users for applications
- Often a social network or other identity provider
- Financial ID providers (e.g. PayPal) require real world verification - Higher barrier to entry
- Authorize access/modification of profile data
- Examples:

Federated Authentication Interaction

High level



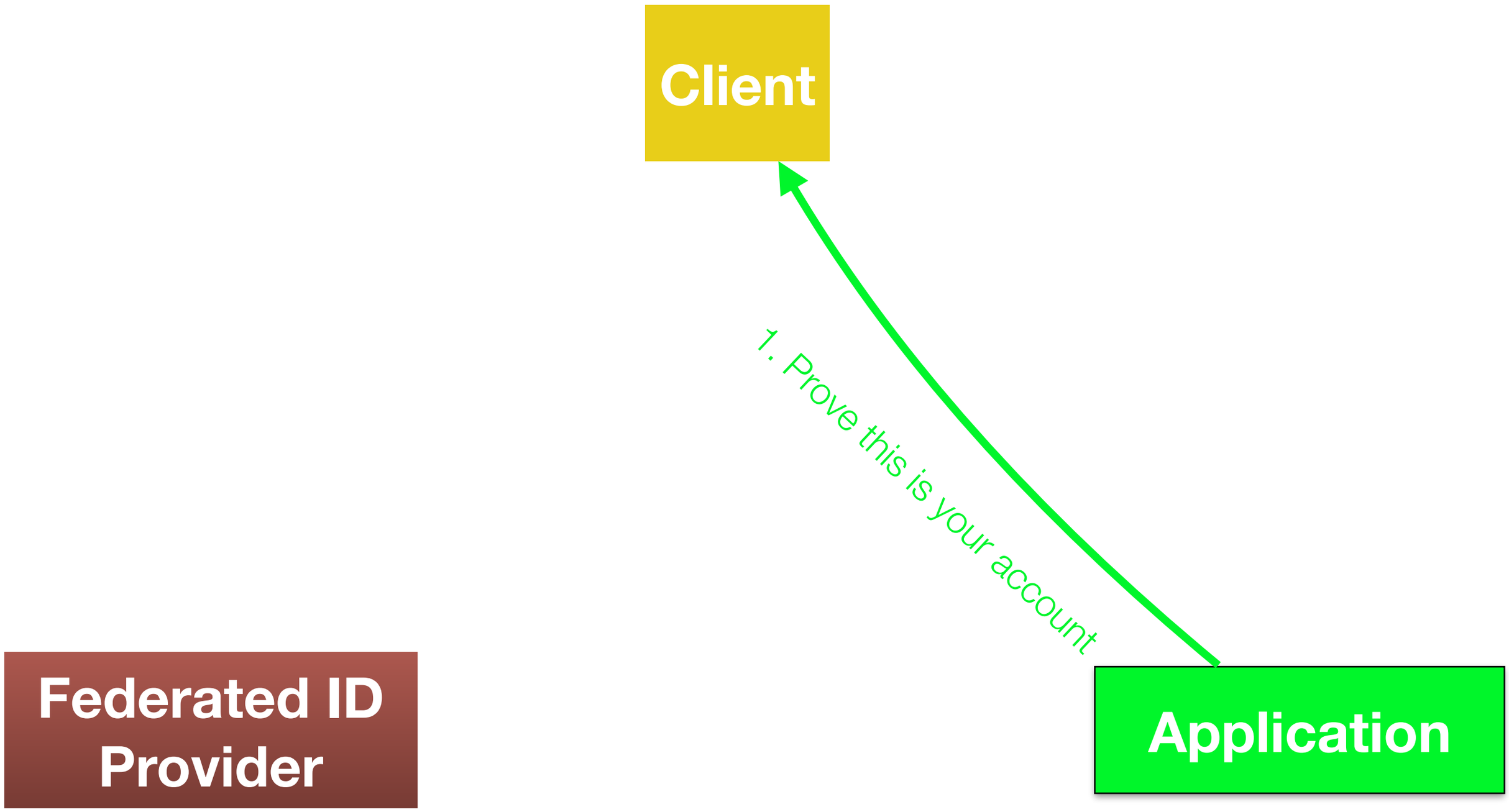
Federated Authentication Interaction **(high level)**

Client

Federated ID Provider

Application

Federated Authentication Interaction **(high level)**



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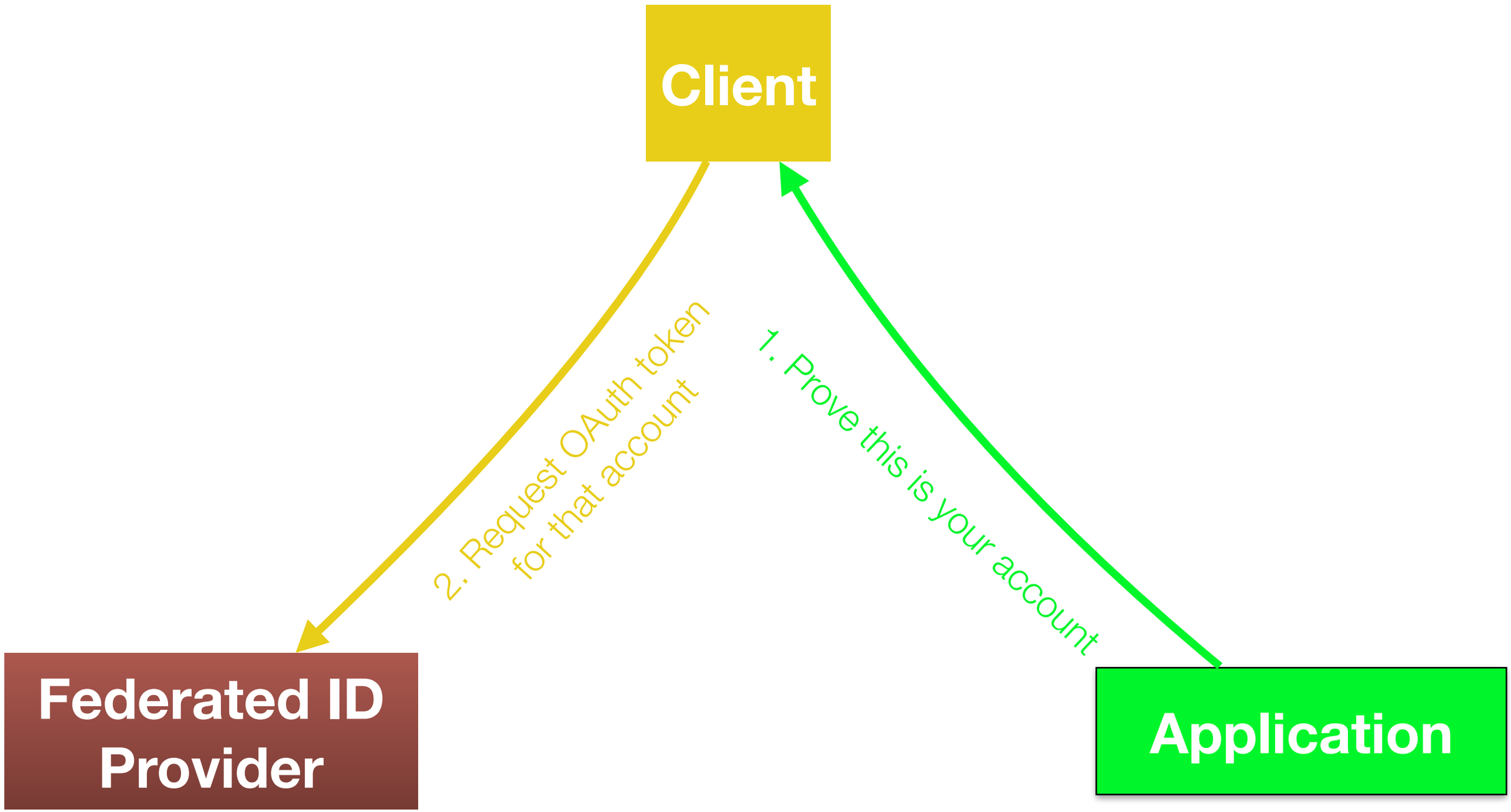

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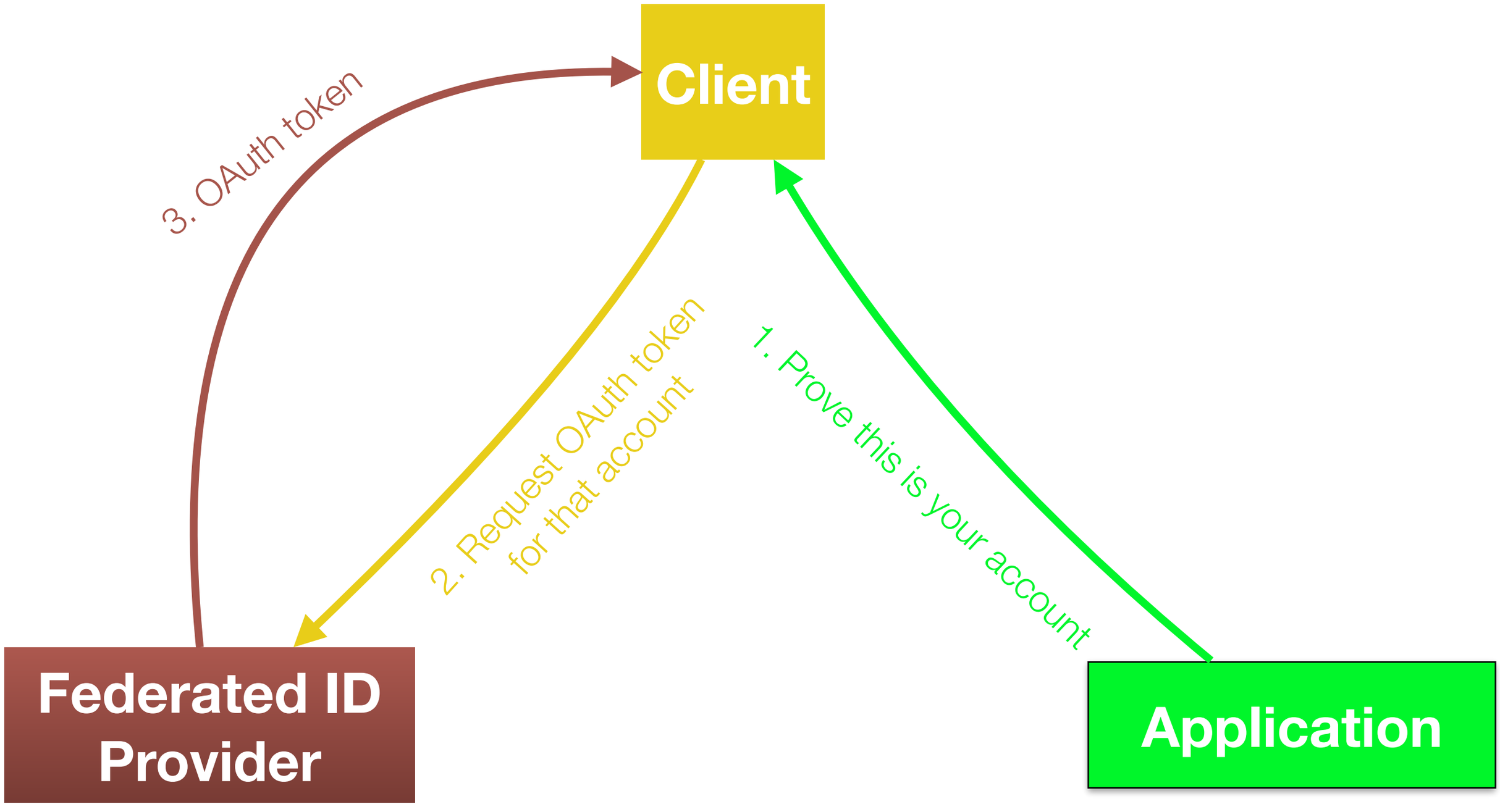

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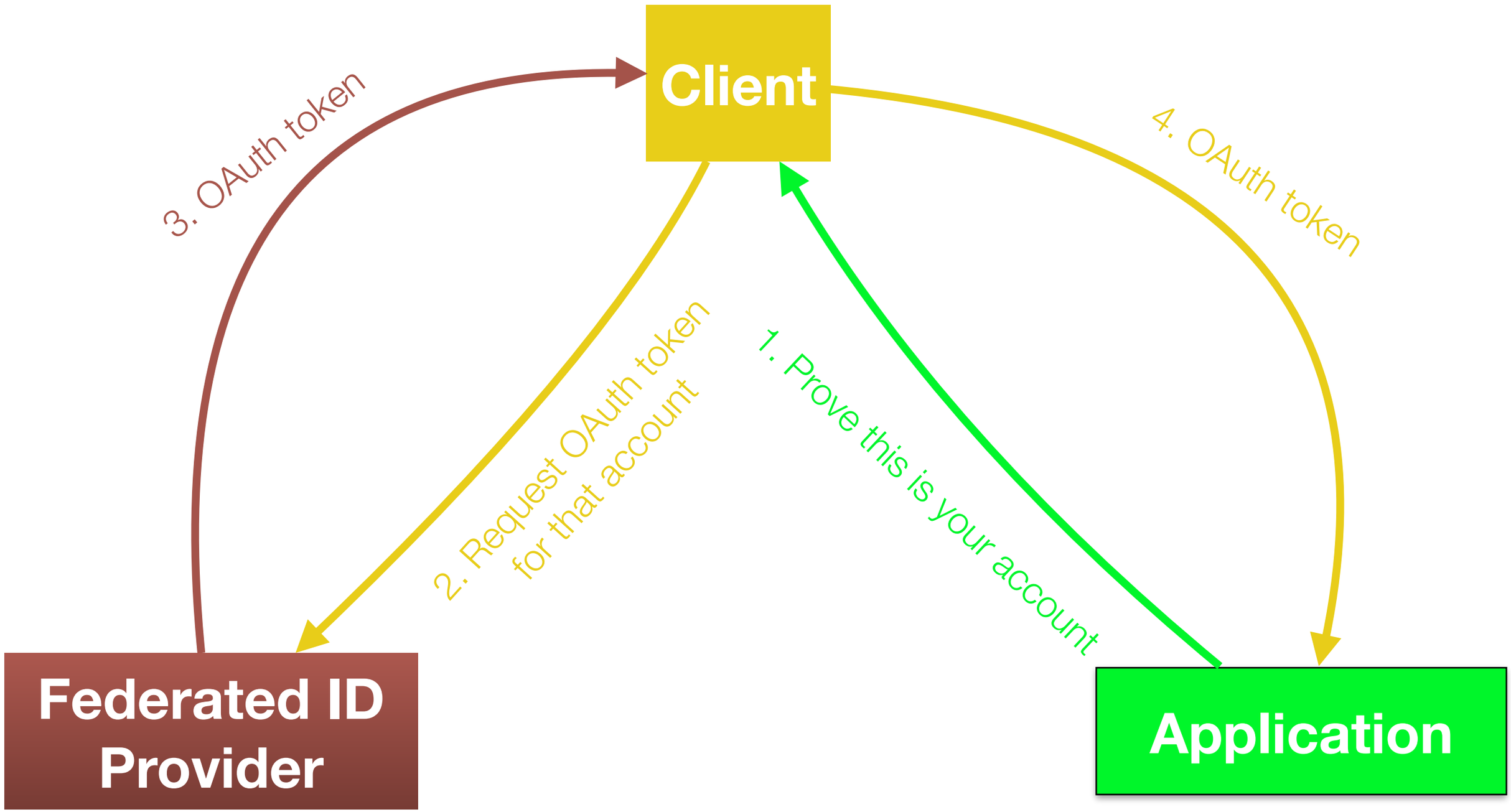

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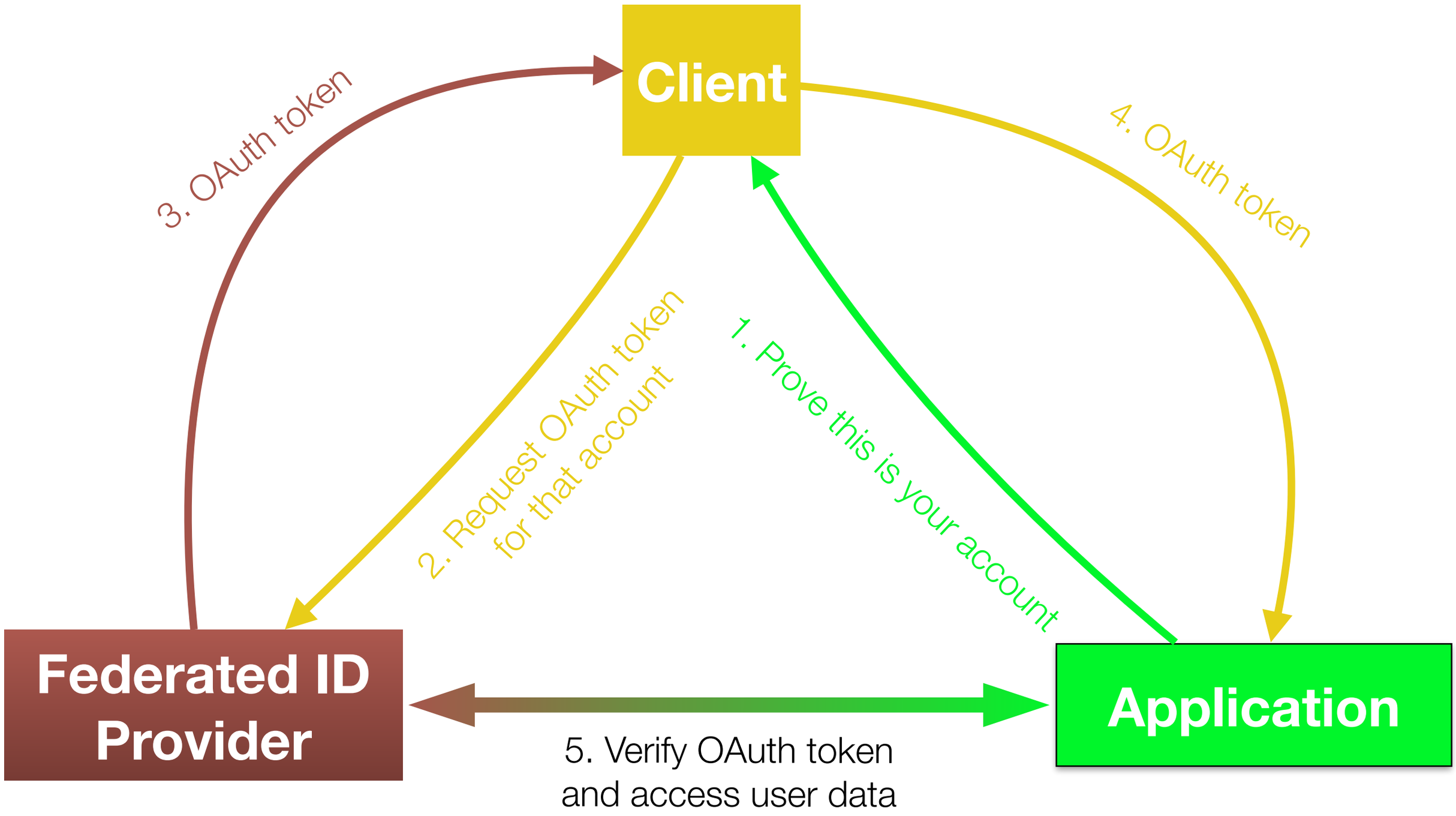
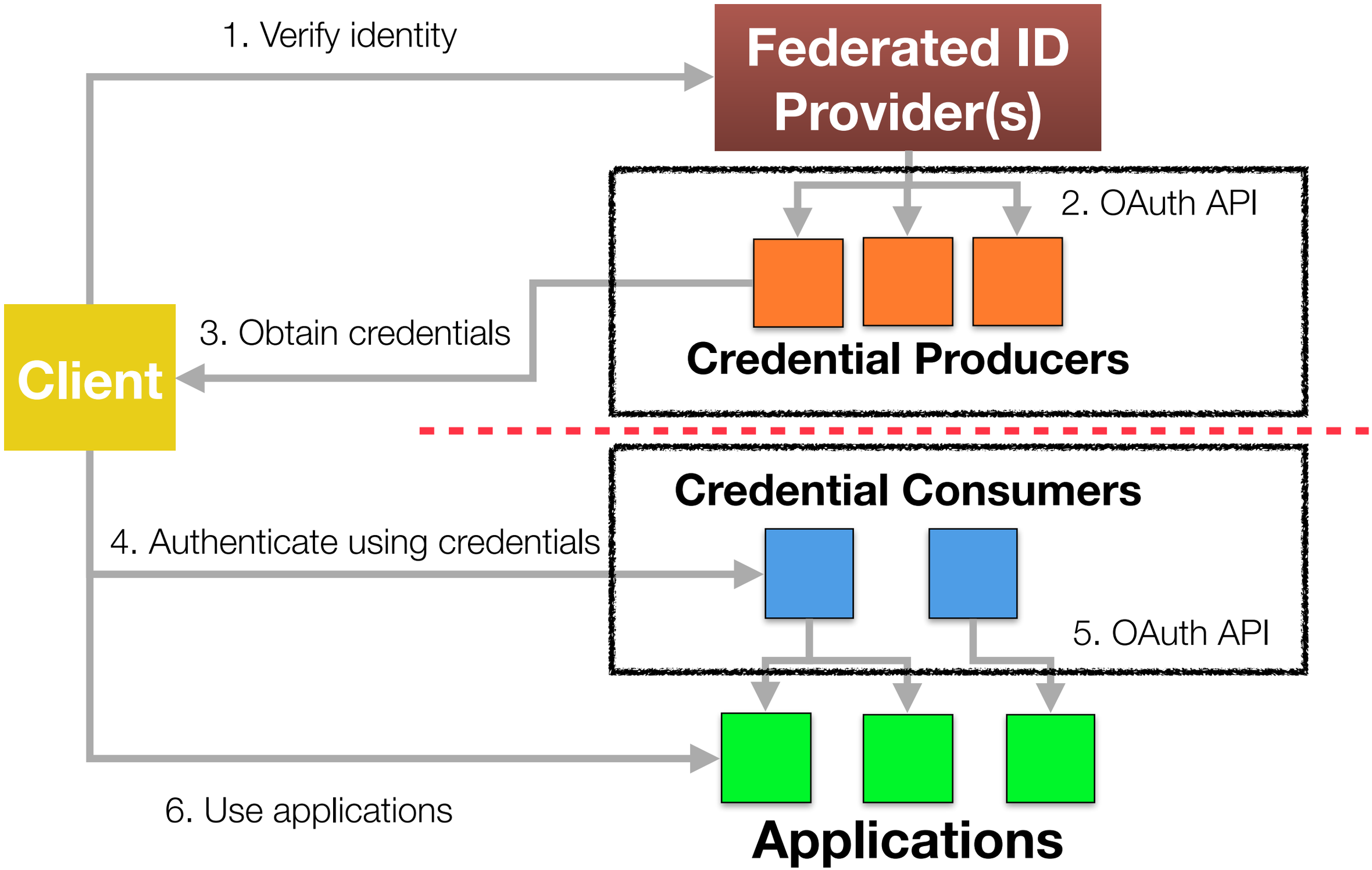
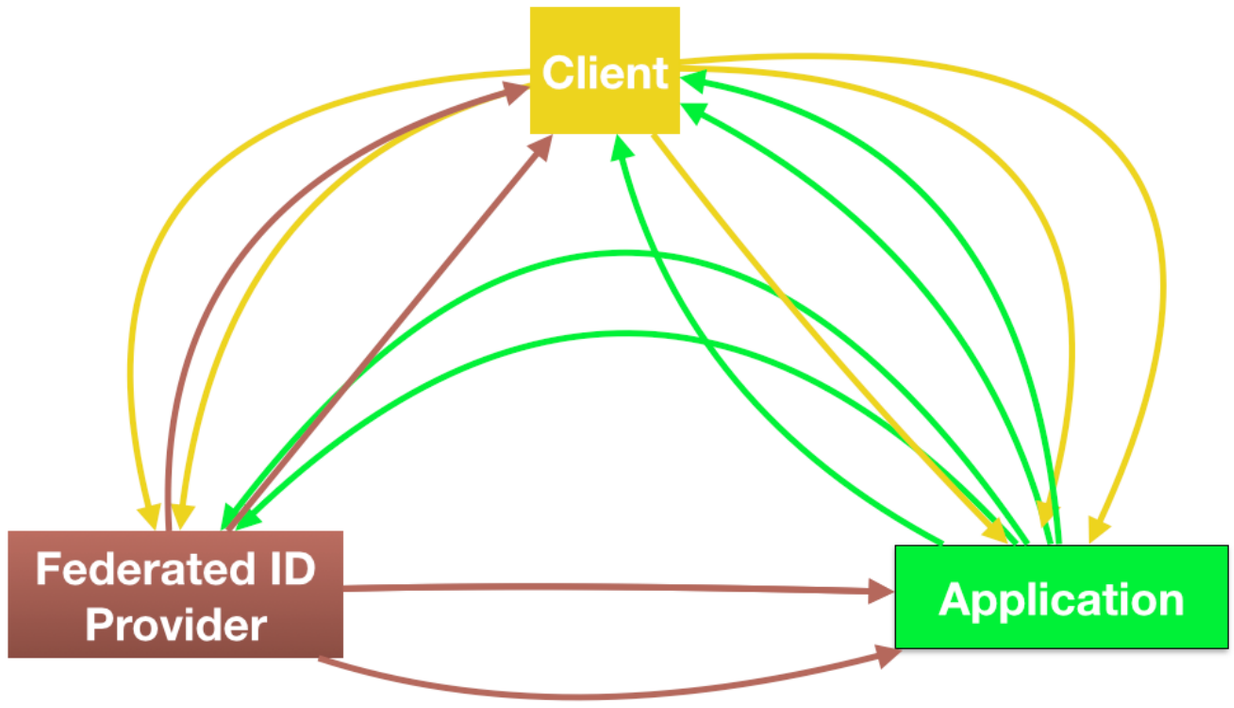


System Architecture



Federated ID Authentication

Detailed view



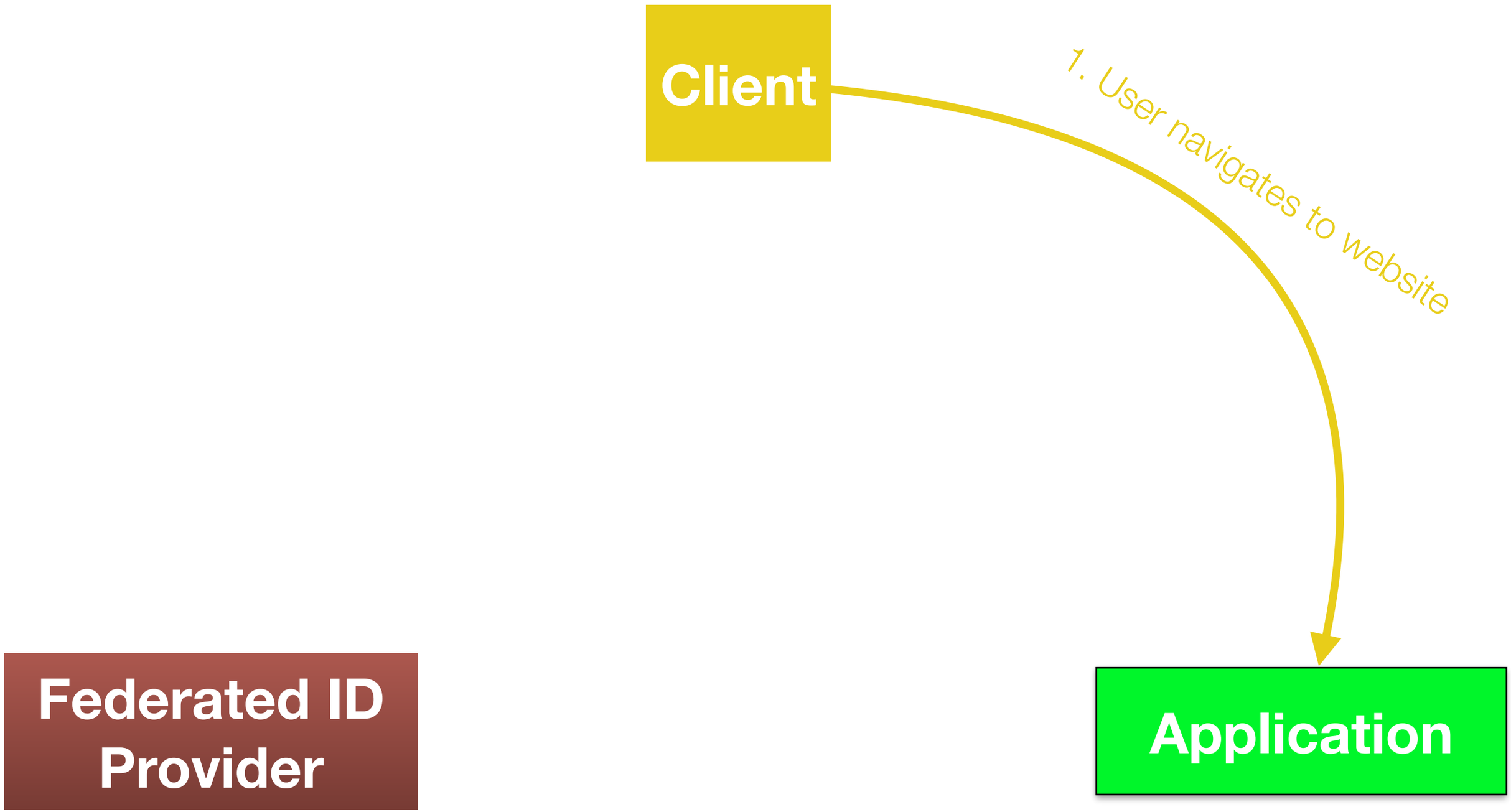
Federated Authentication Interaction

Client

Federated ID Provider

Application

Federated Authentication Interaction



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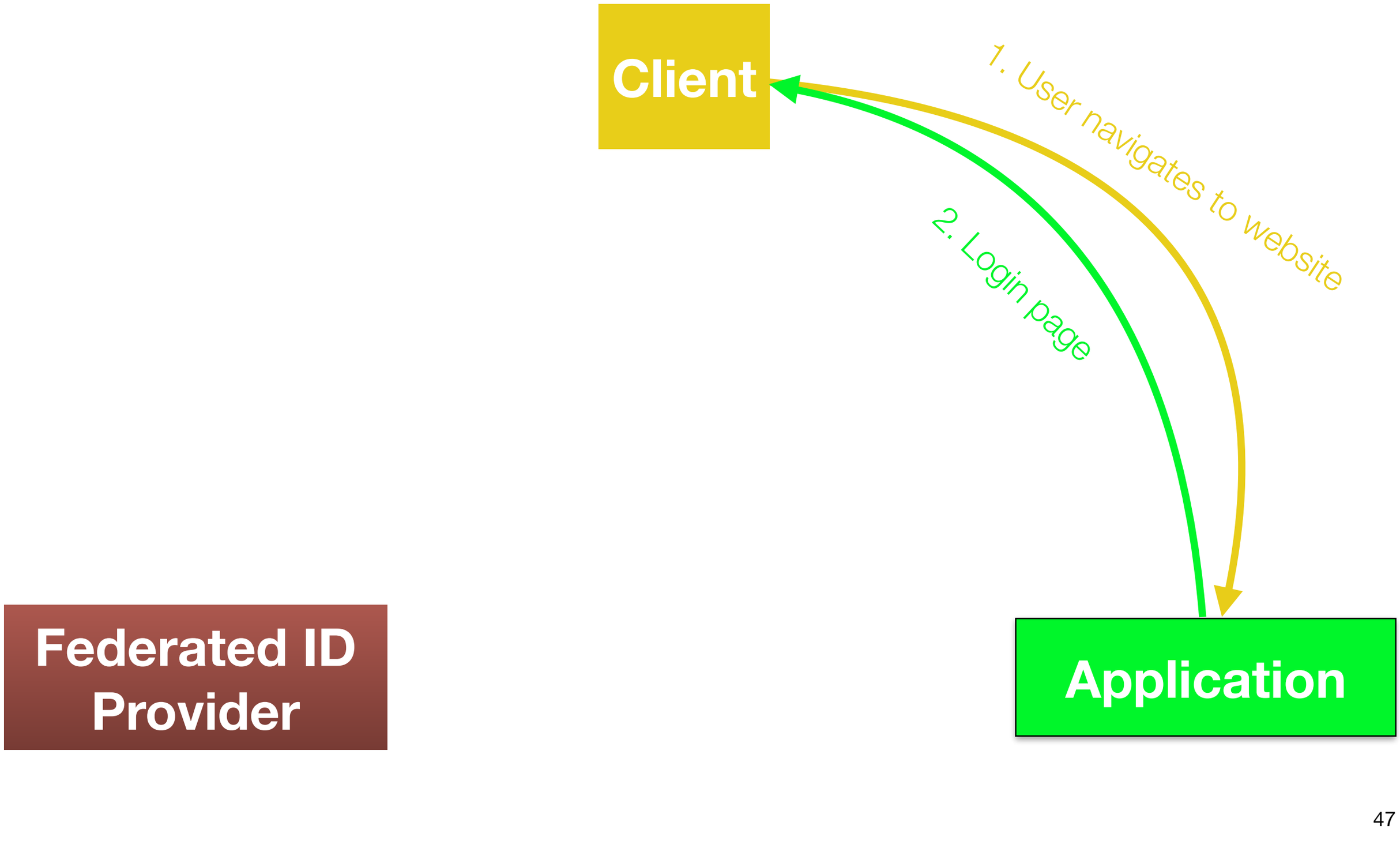

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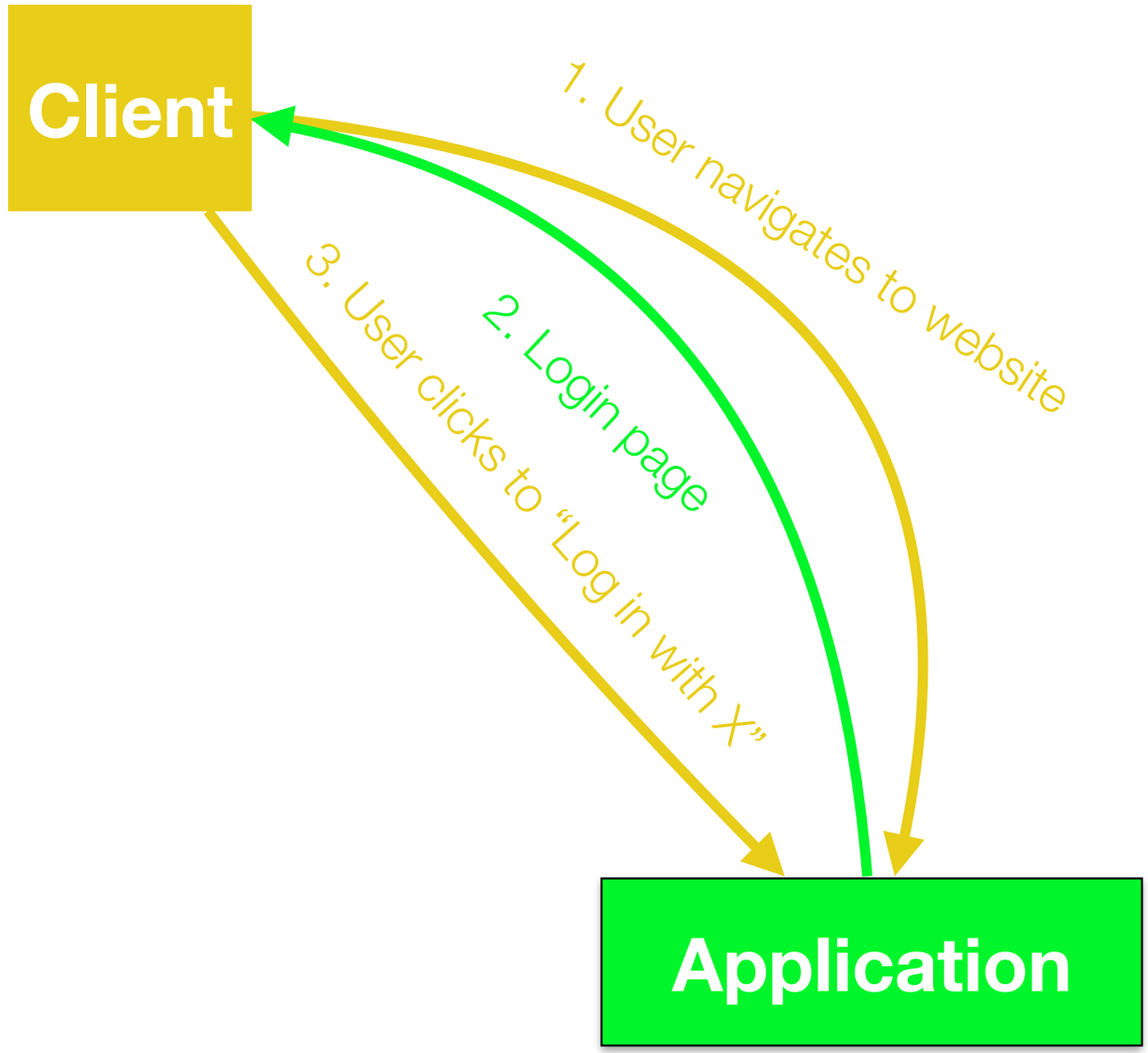

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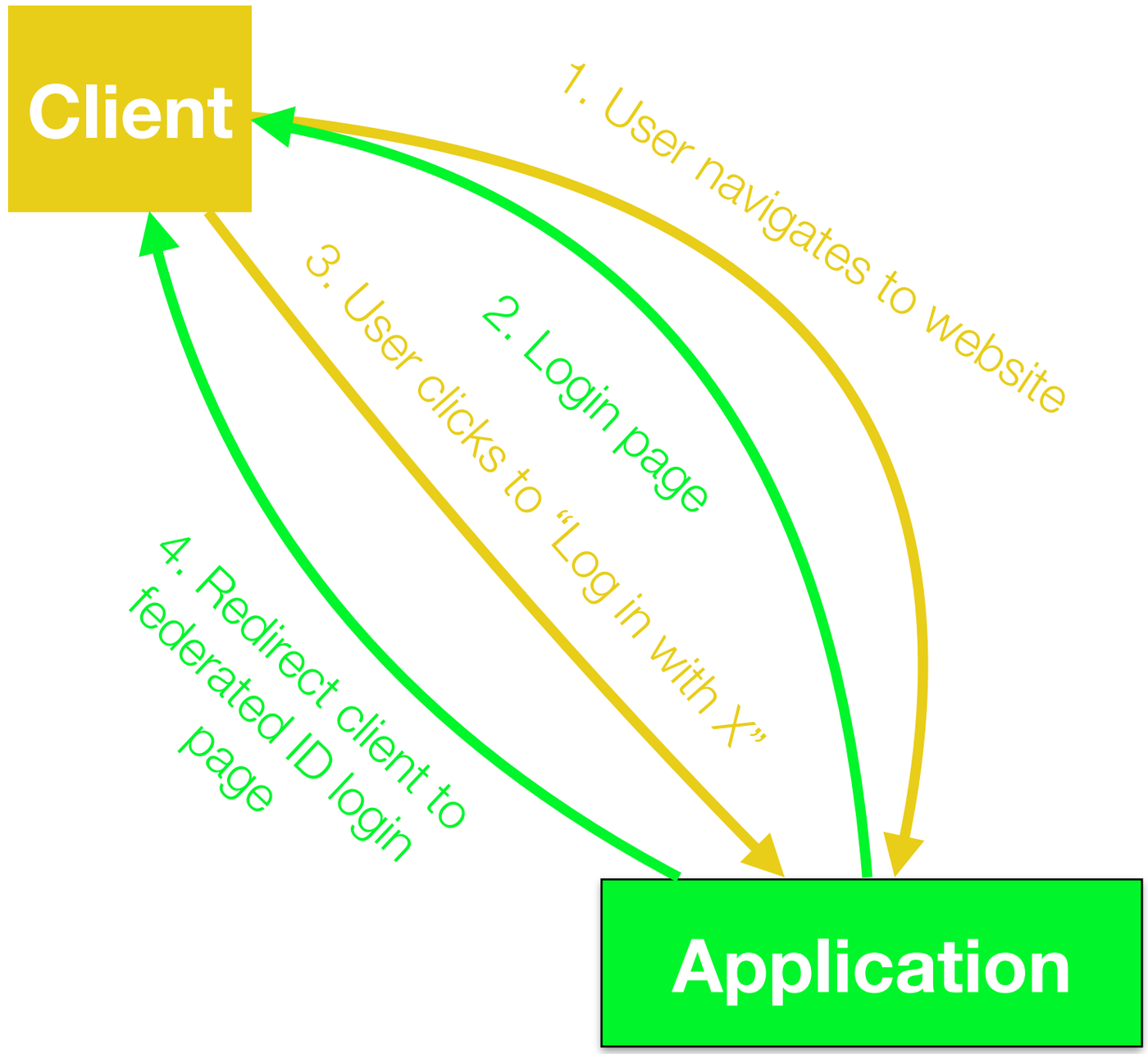

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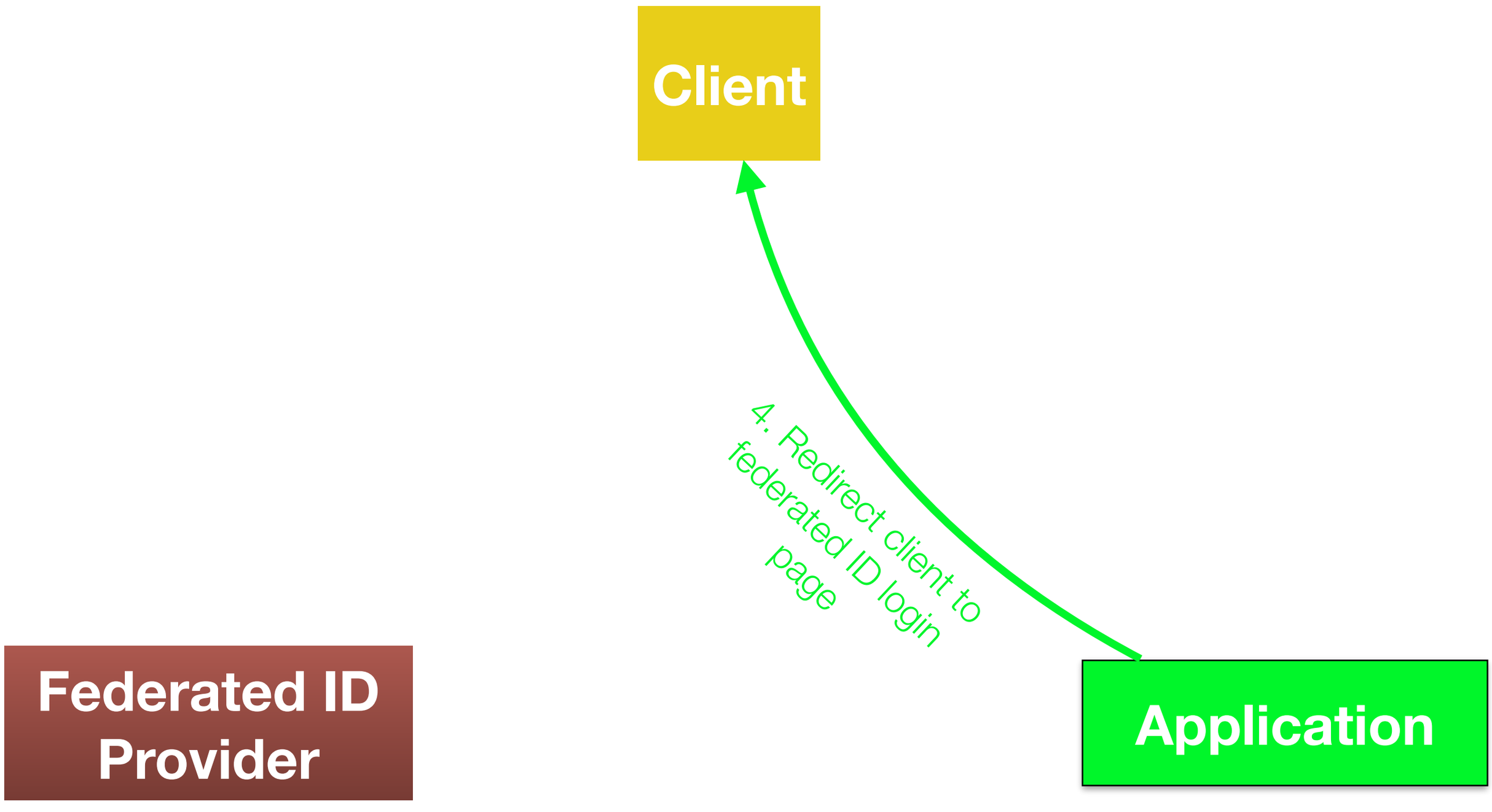

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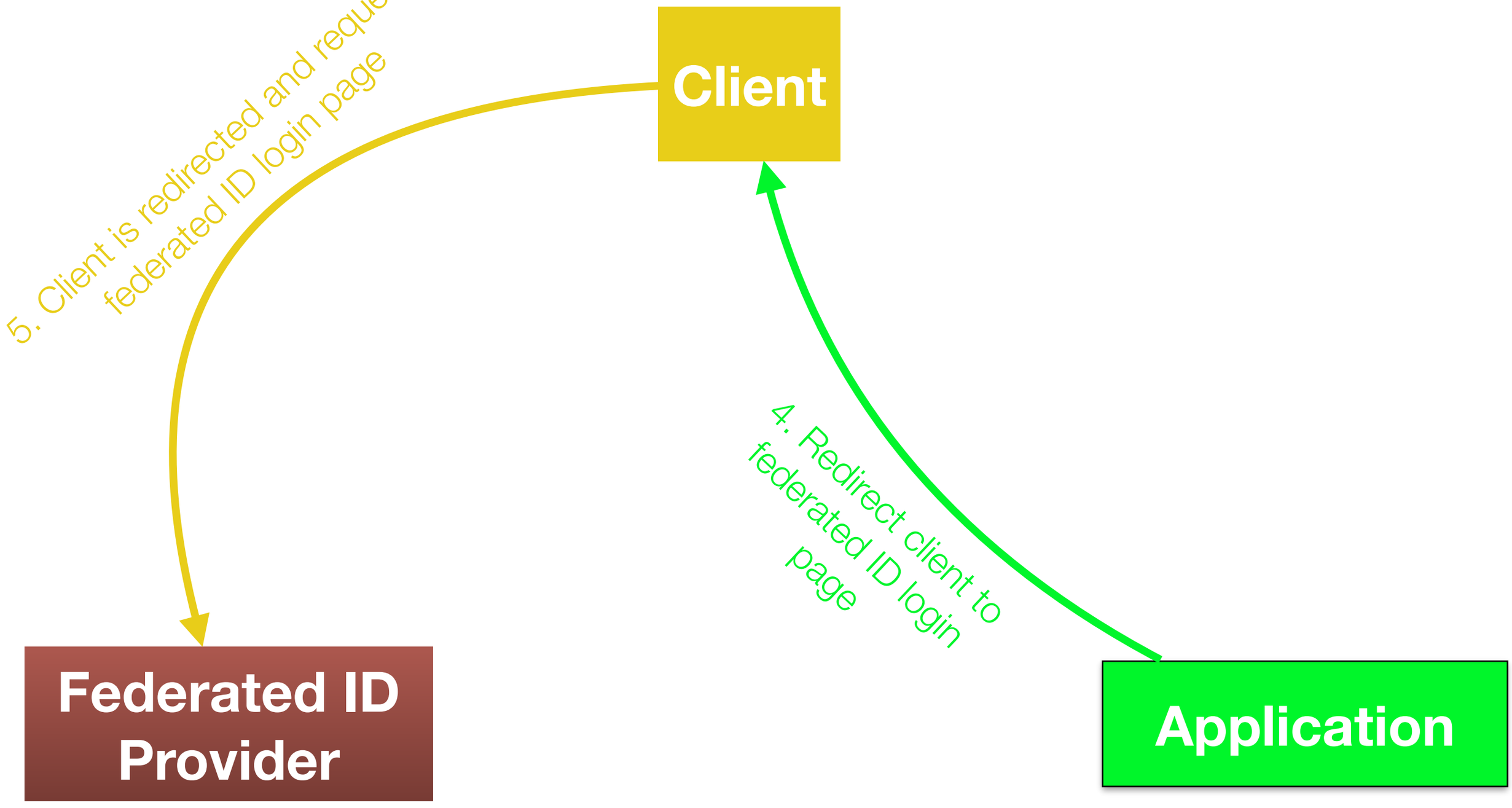

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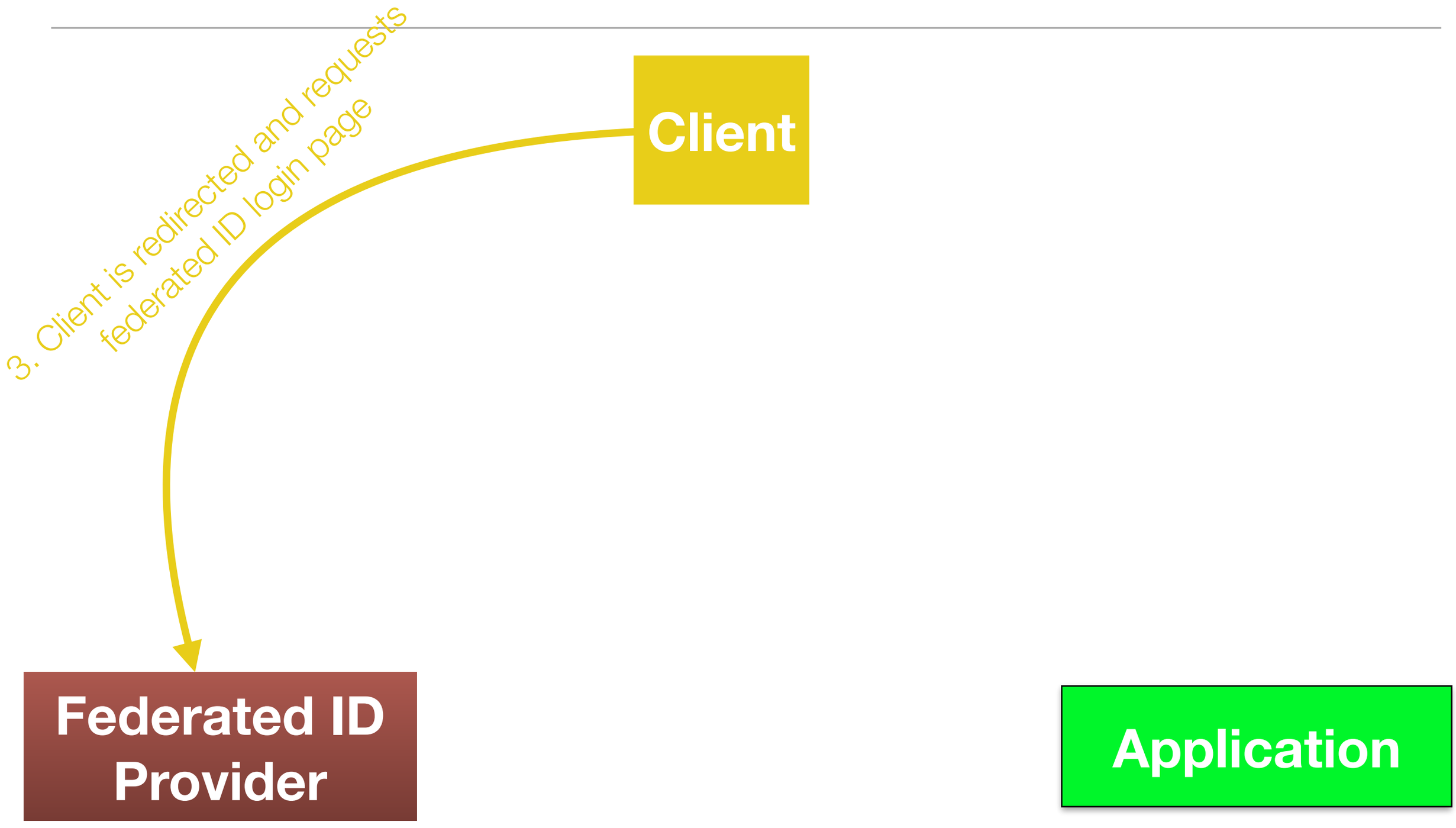

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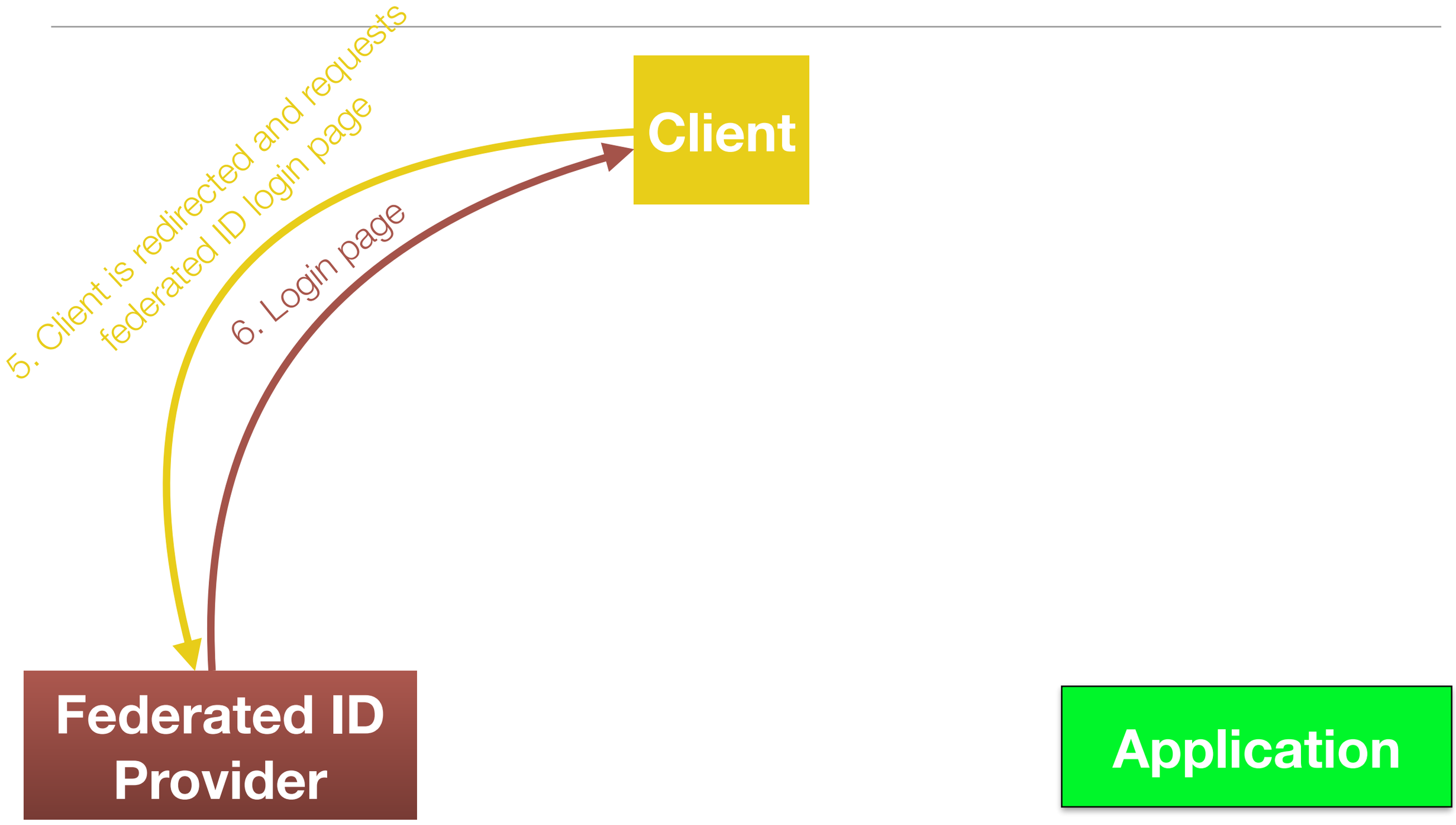

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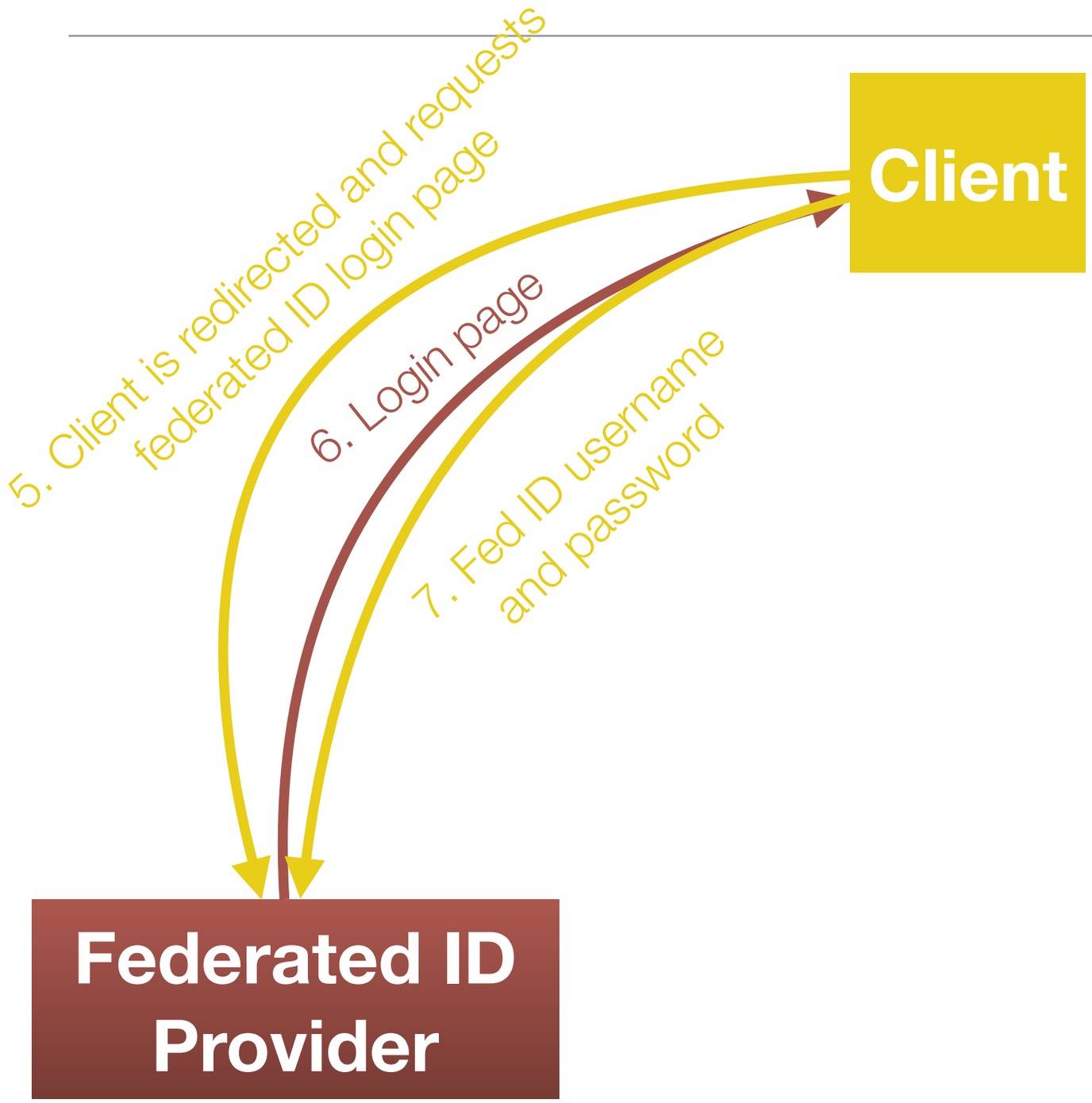

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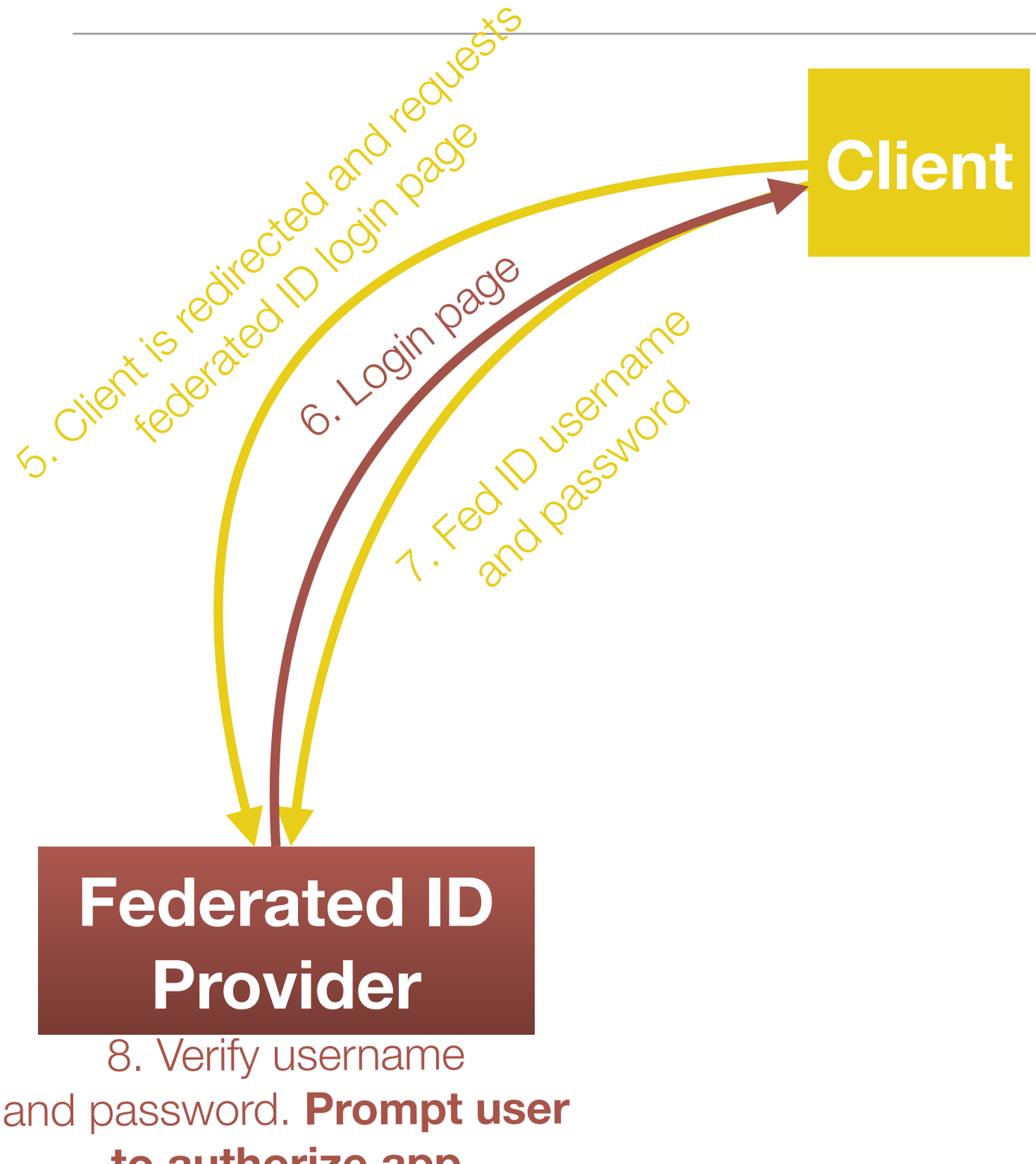

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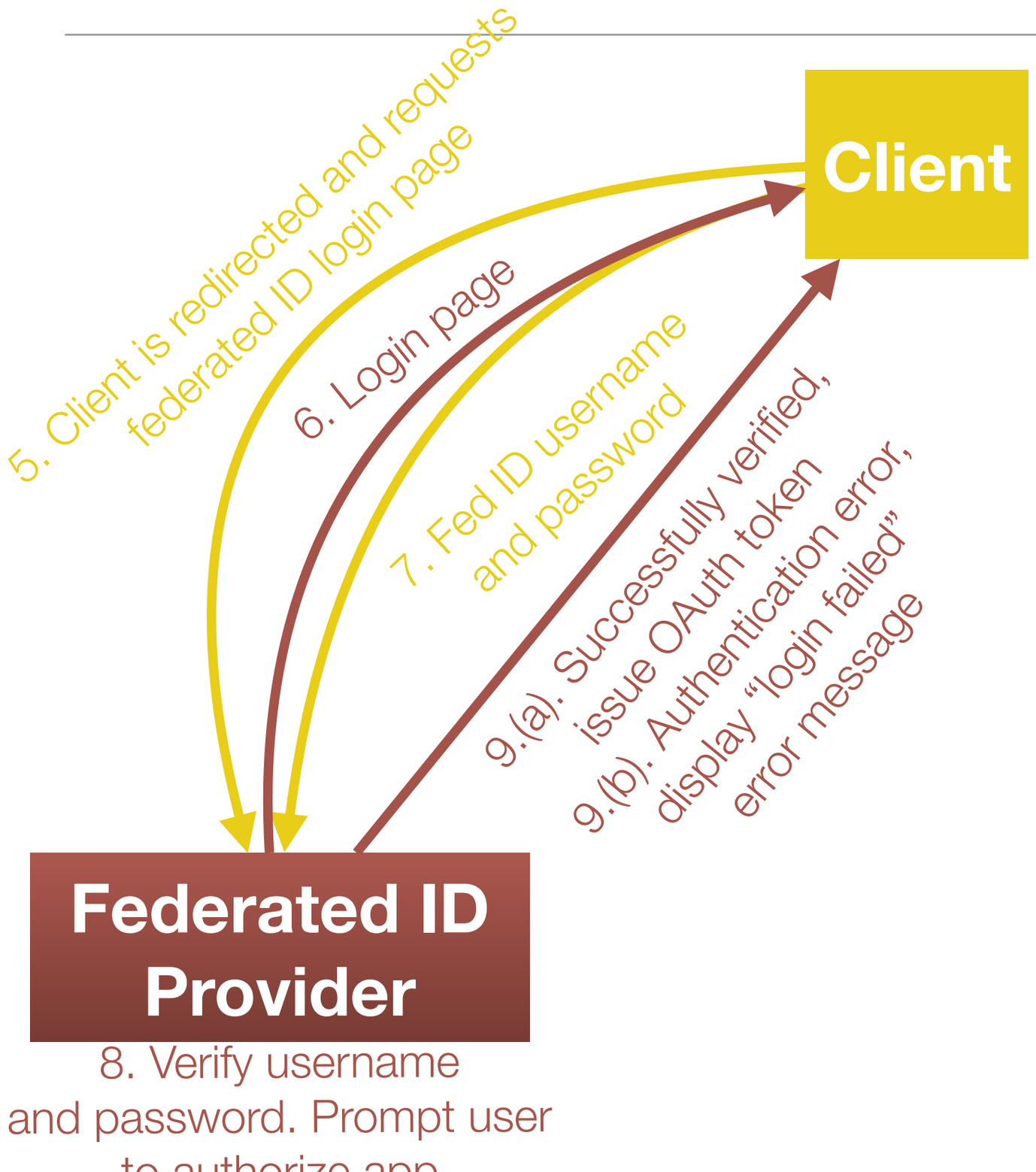

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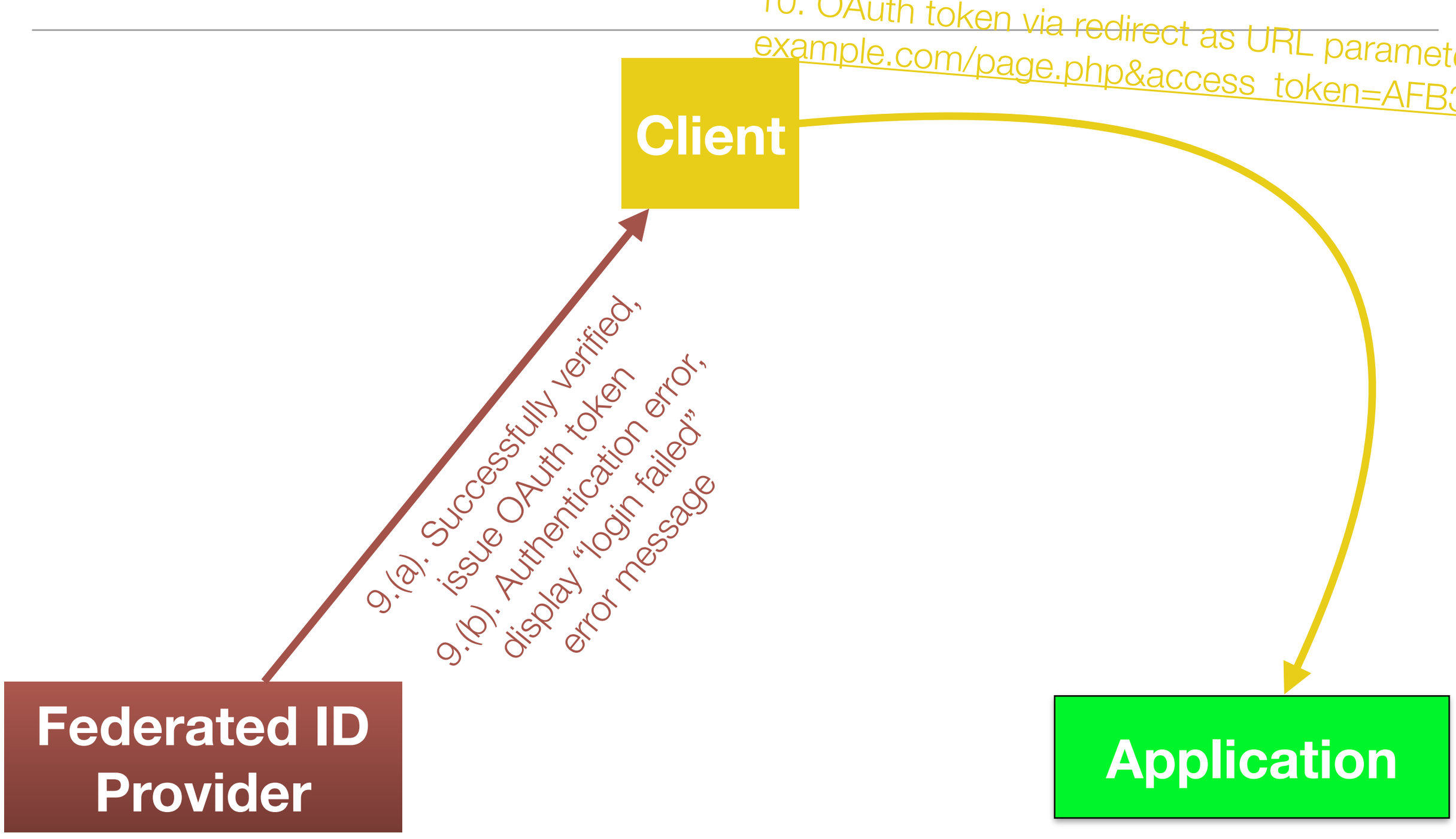

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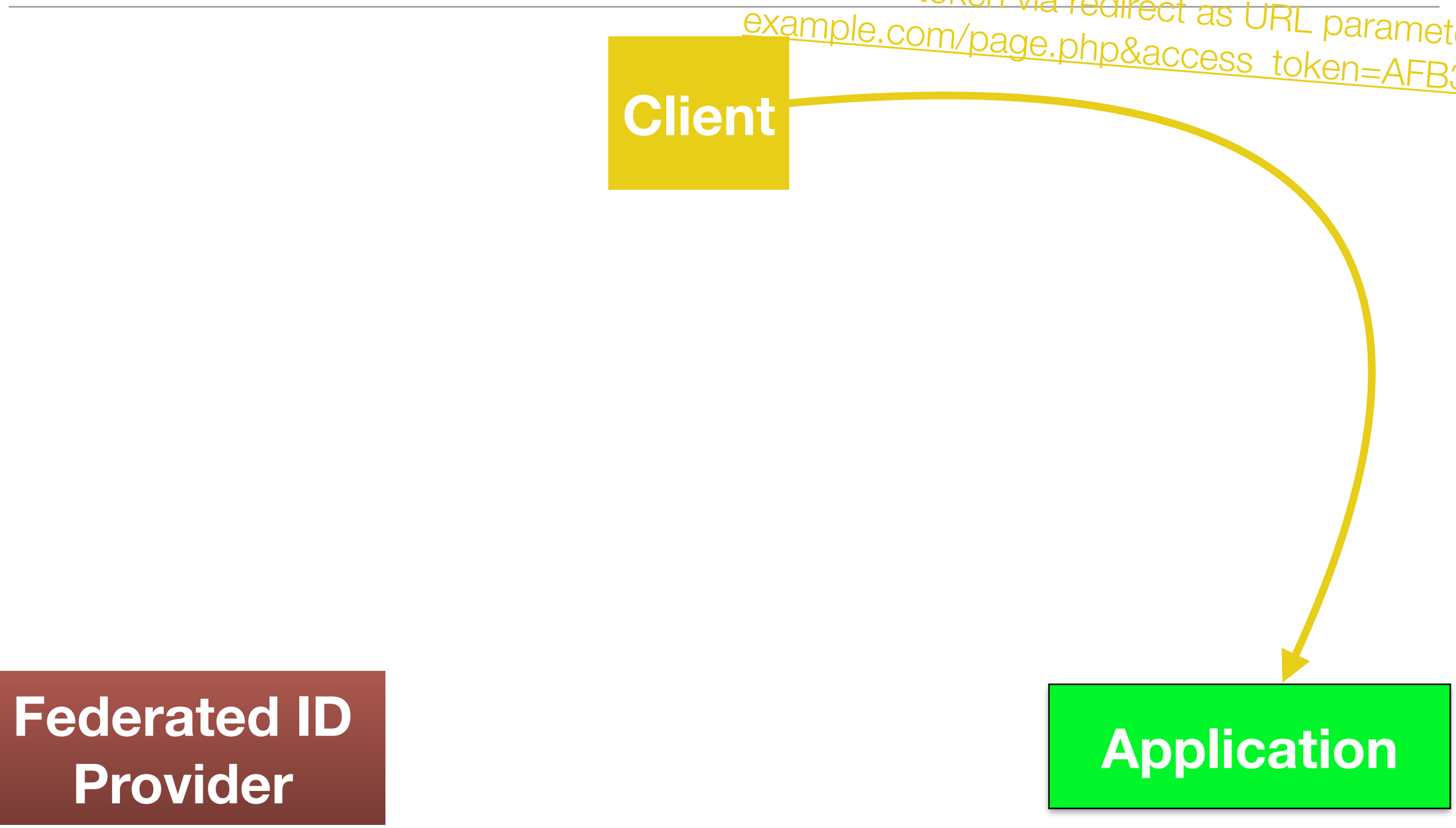

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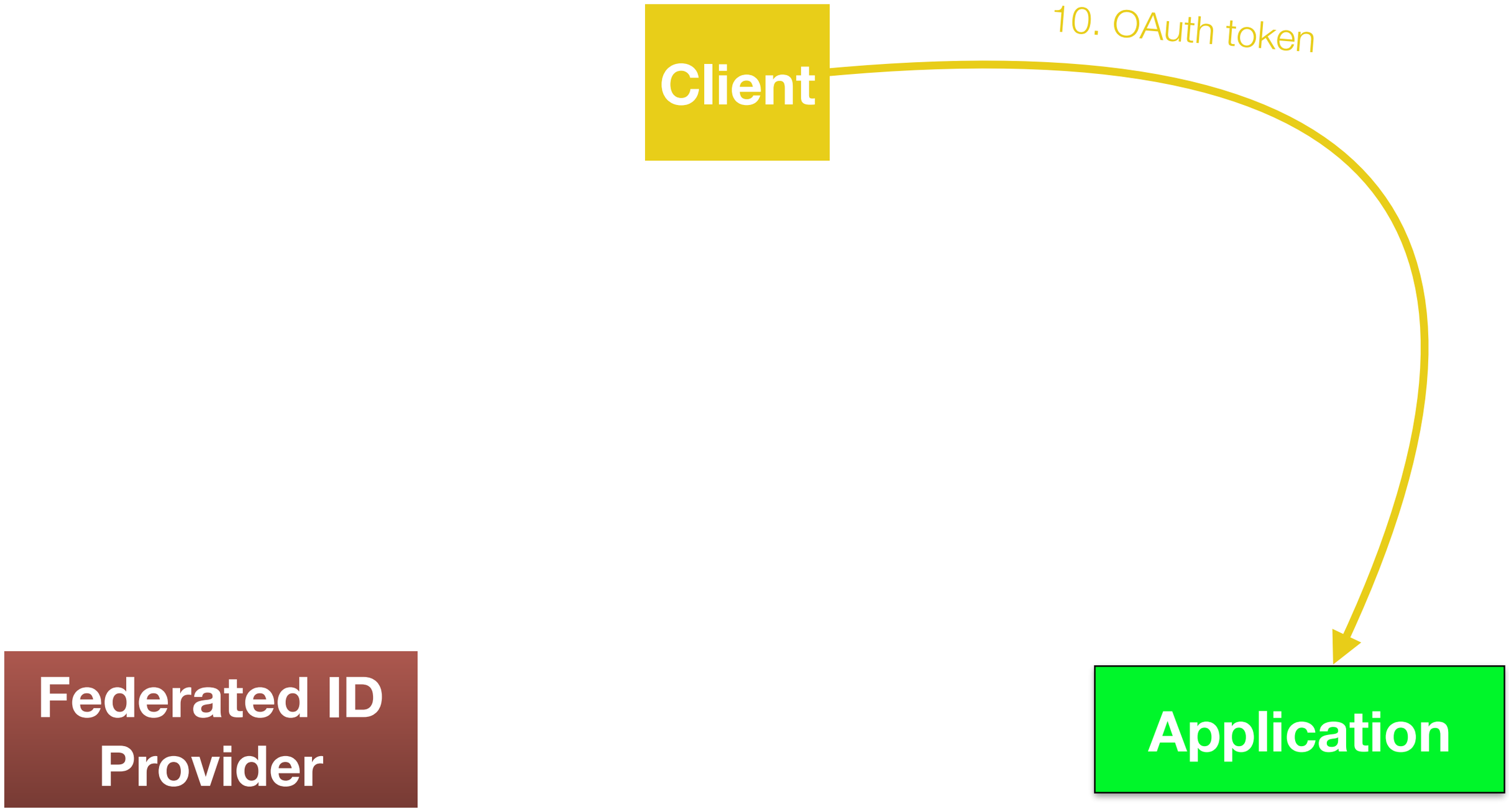

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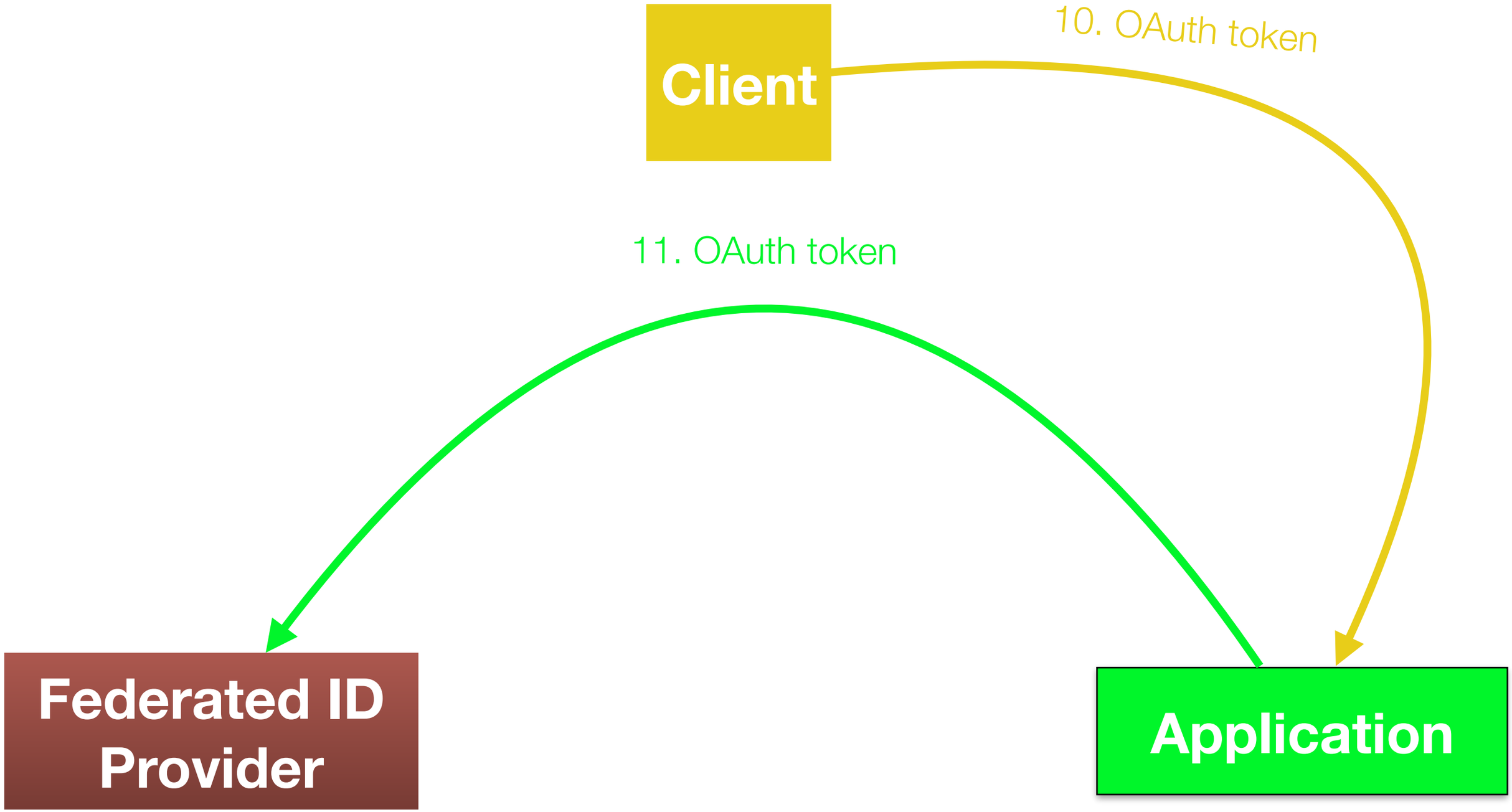

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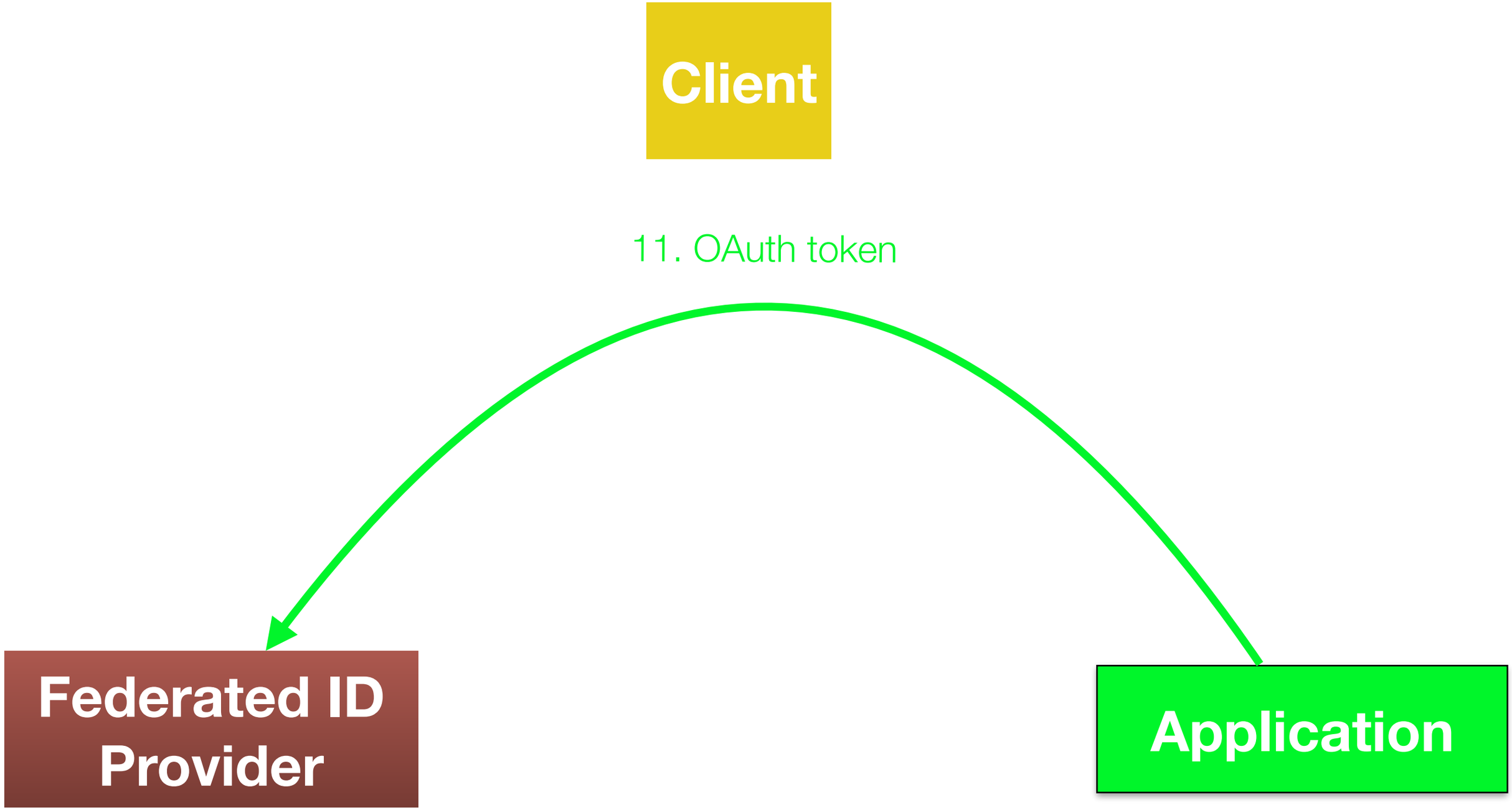

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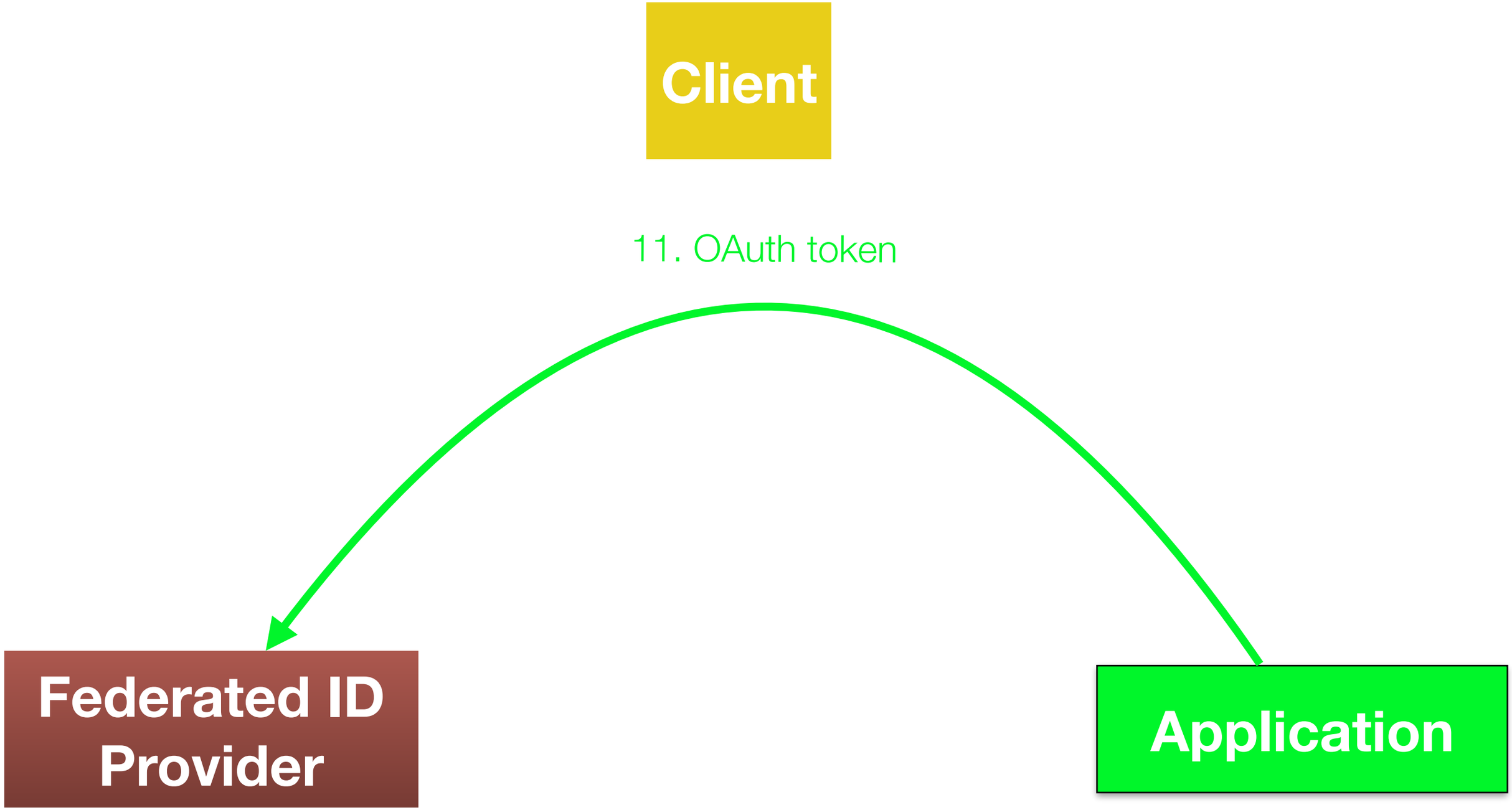

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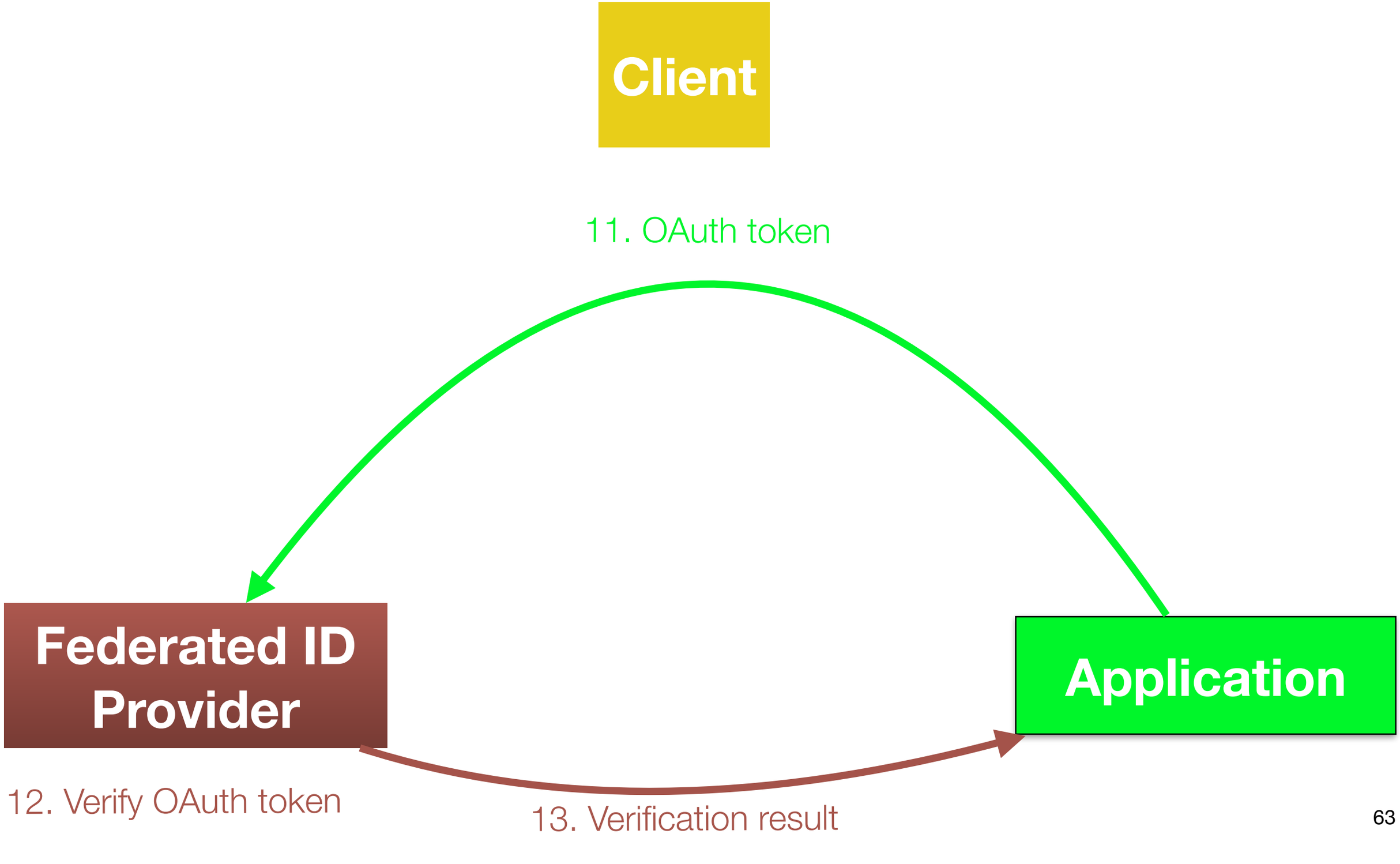

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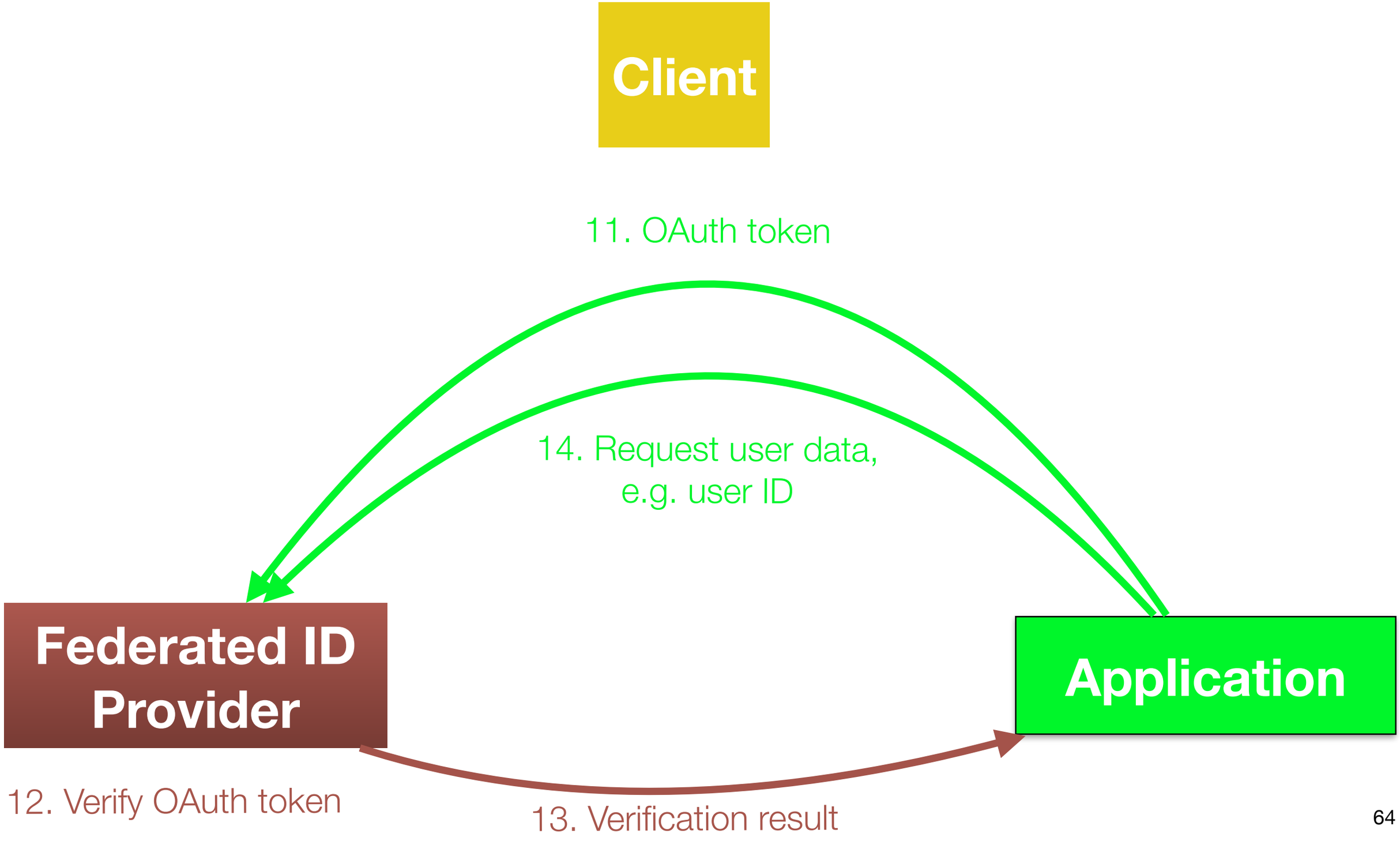
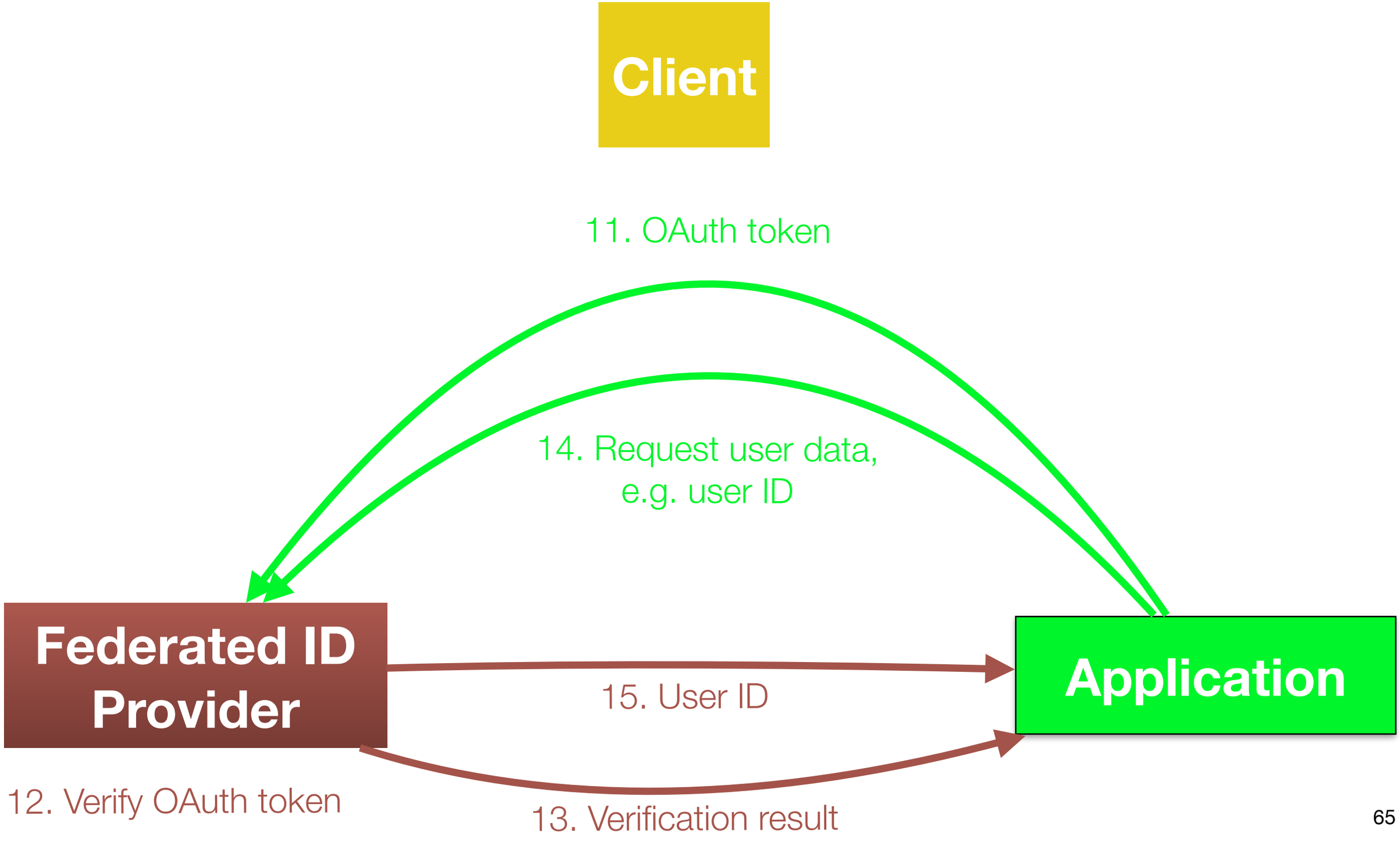
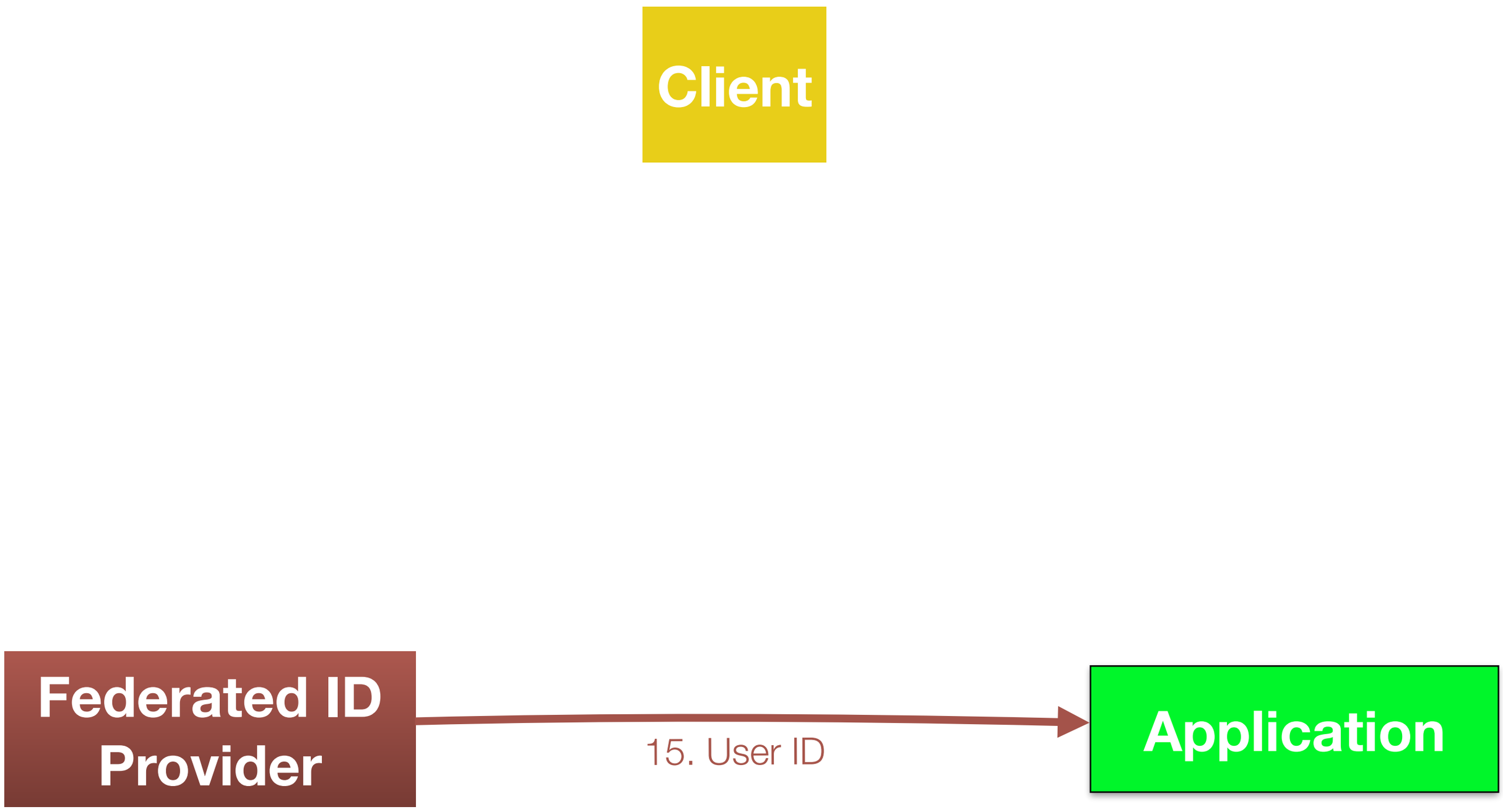


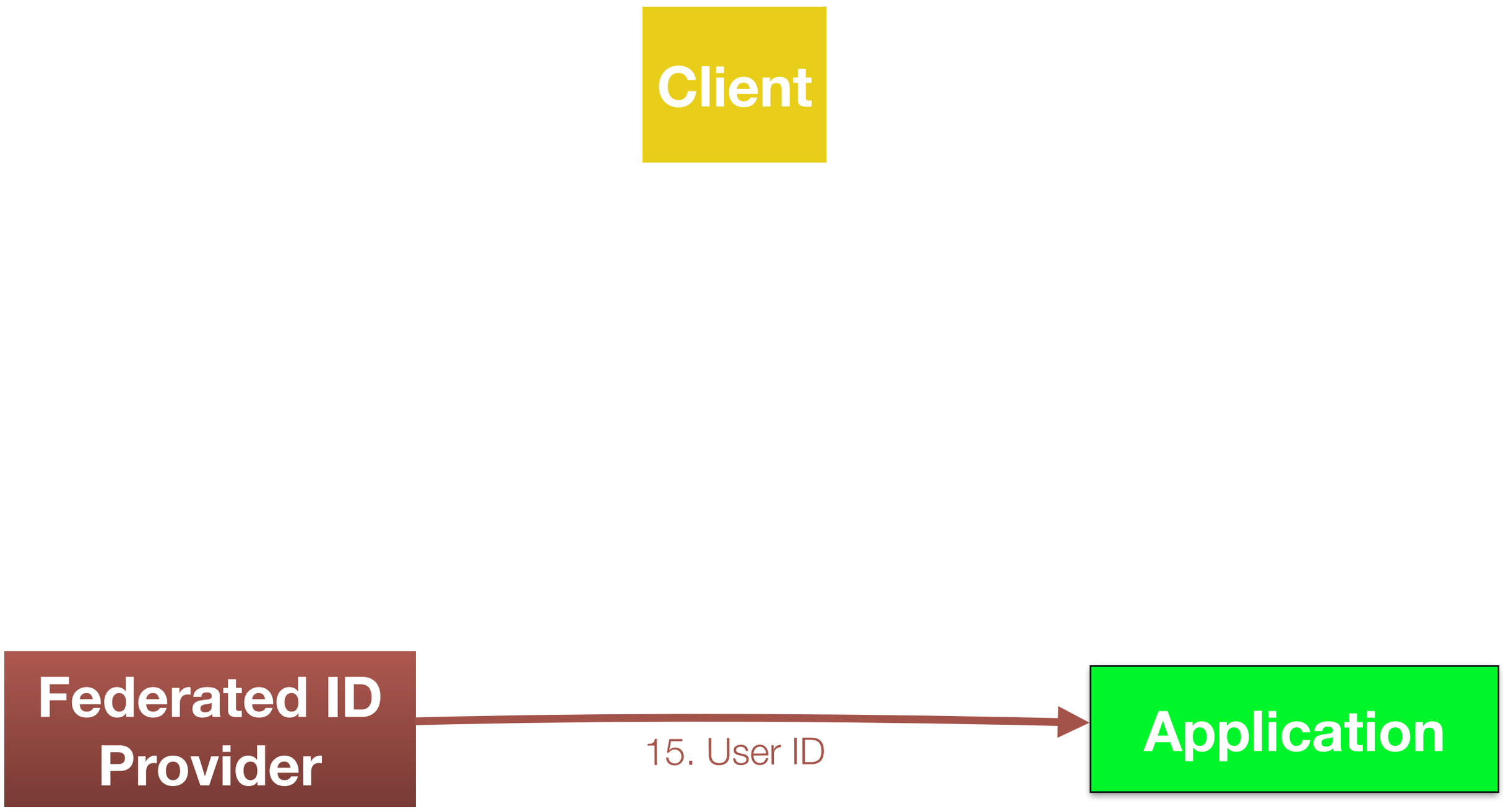
Federated Authentication Interaction



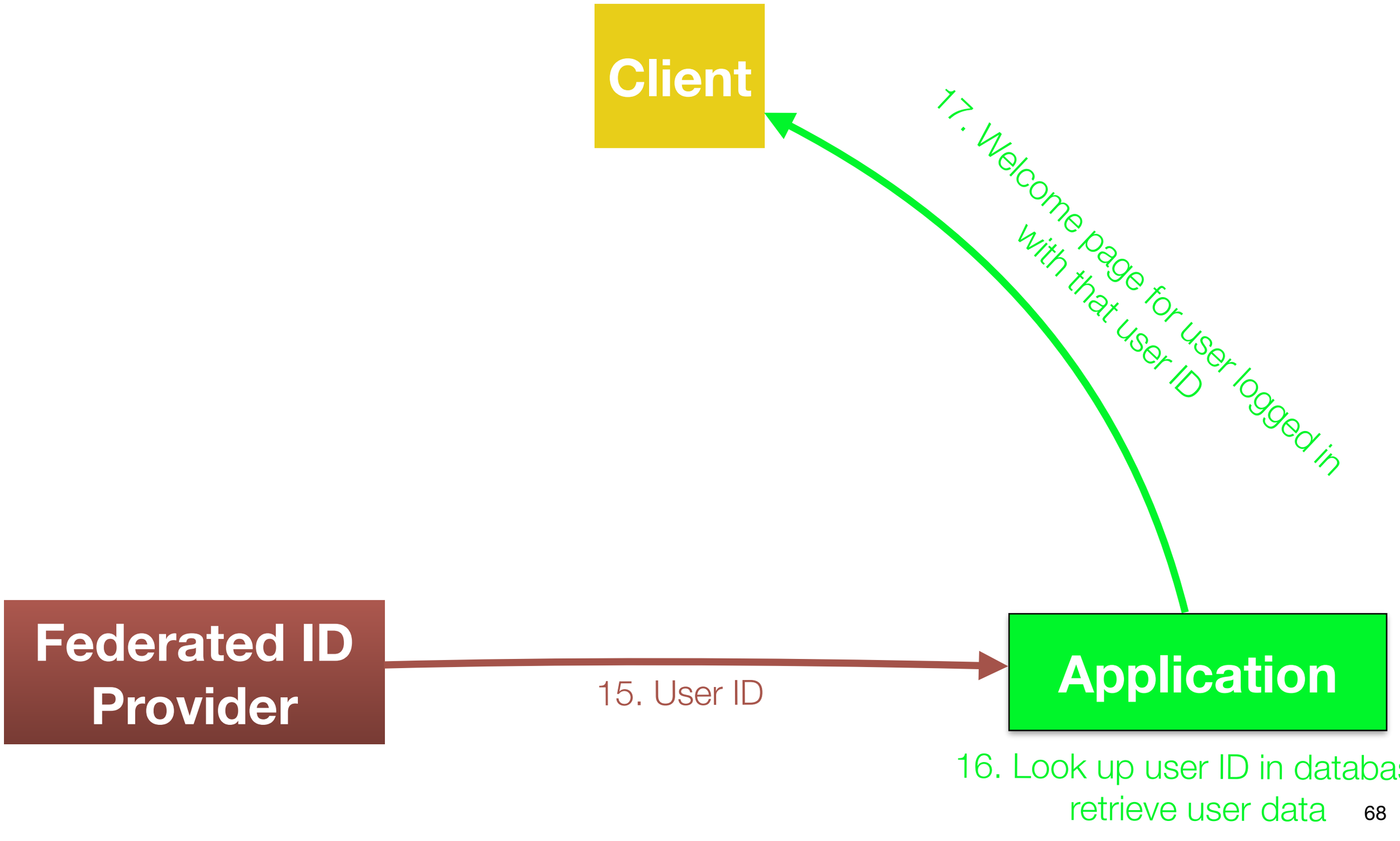
Federated Authentication Interaction



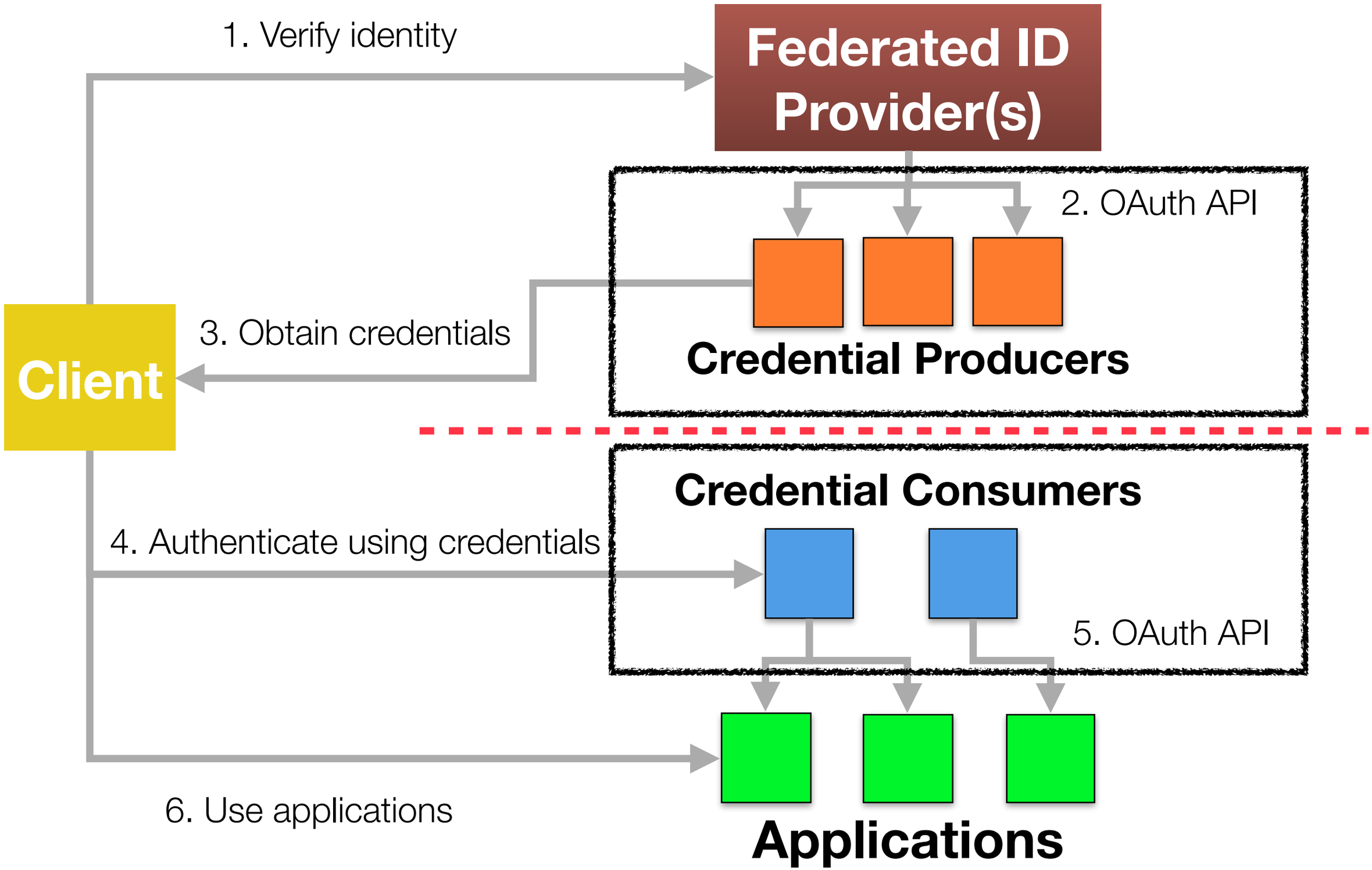
Federated Authentication Interaction



Federated Authentication Interaction



System Architecture



Roadmap

1. Background
2. Work Overview
3. System Architecture
4. **Credential Producers and Consumers**
   - At -Large Credentials
   - Group Credentials
5. Evaluation
6. Conclusions

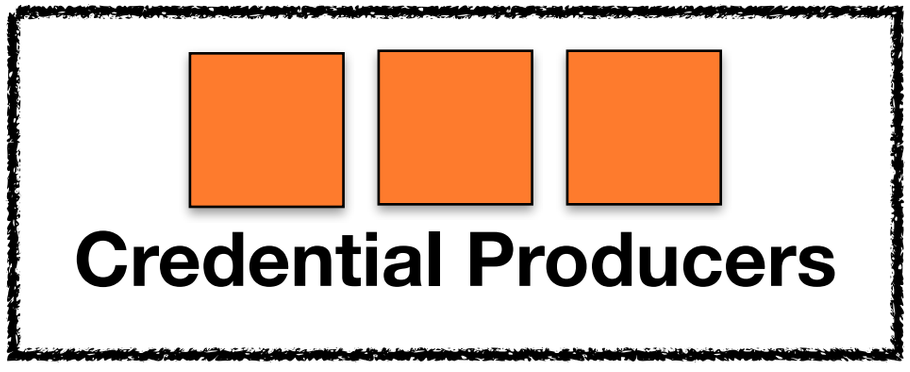
Definition: Privacy Preserving Credential

- **A client uses a privacy preserving credential to prove they own a pseudonym, without revealing their true identity**

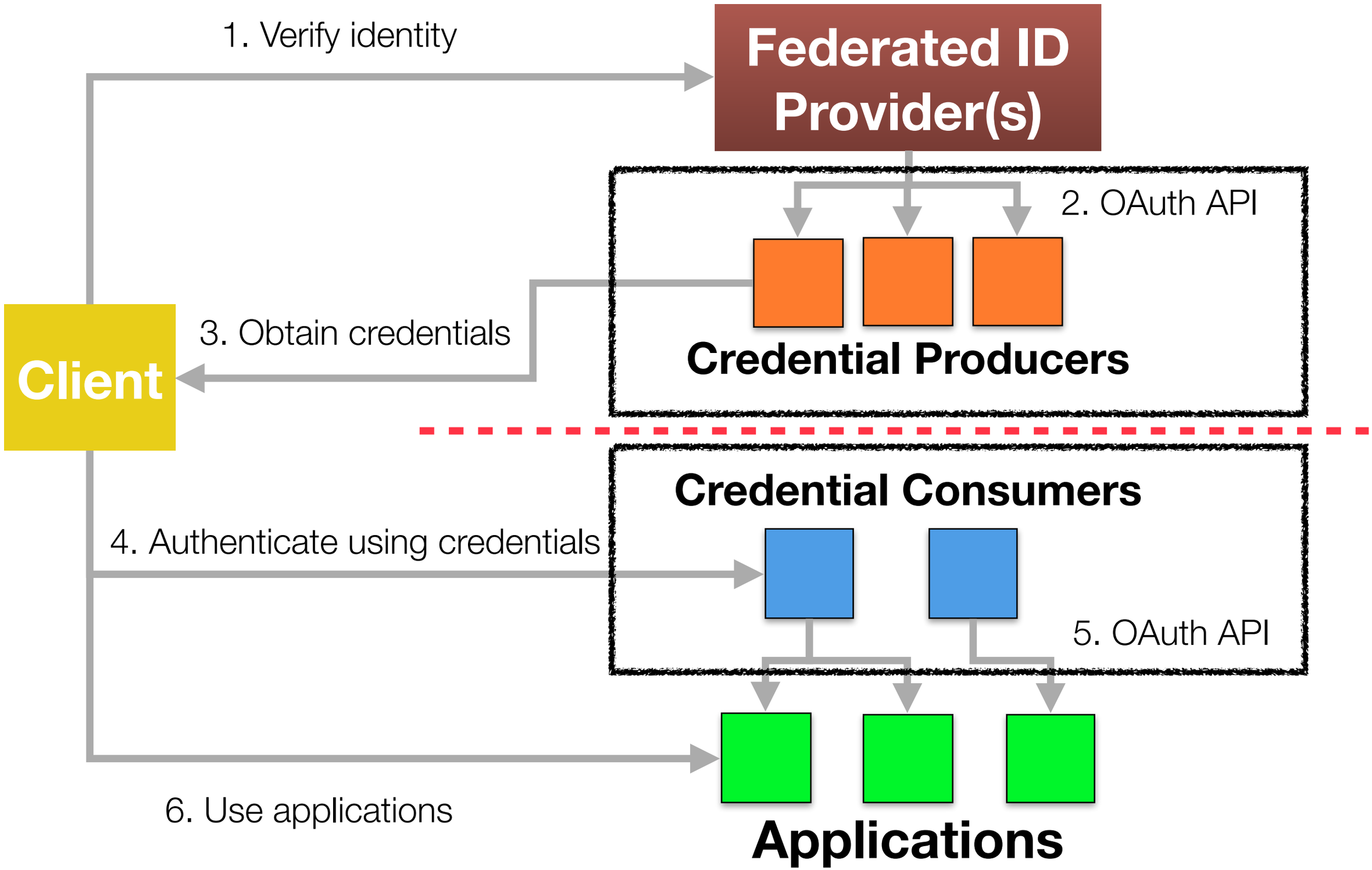
- Using privacy preserving cryptographic techniques

Credential Producers

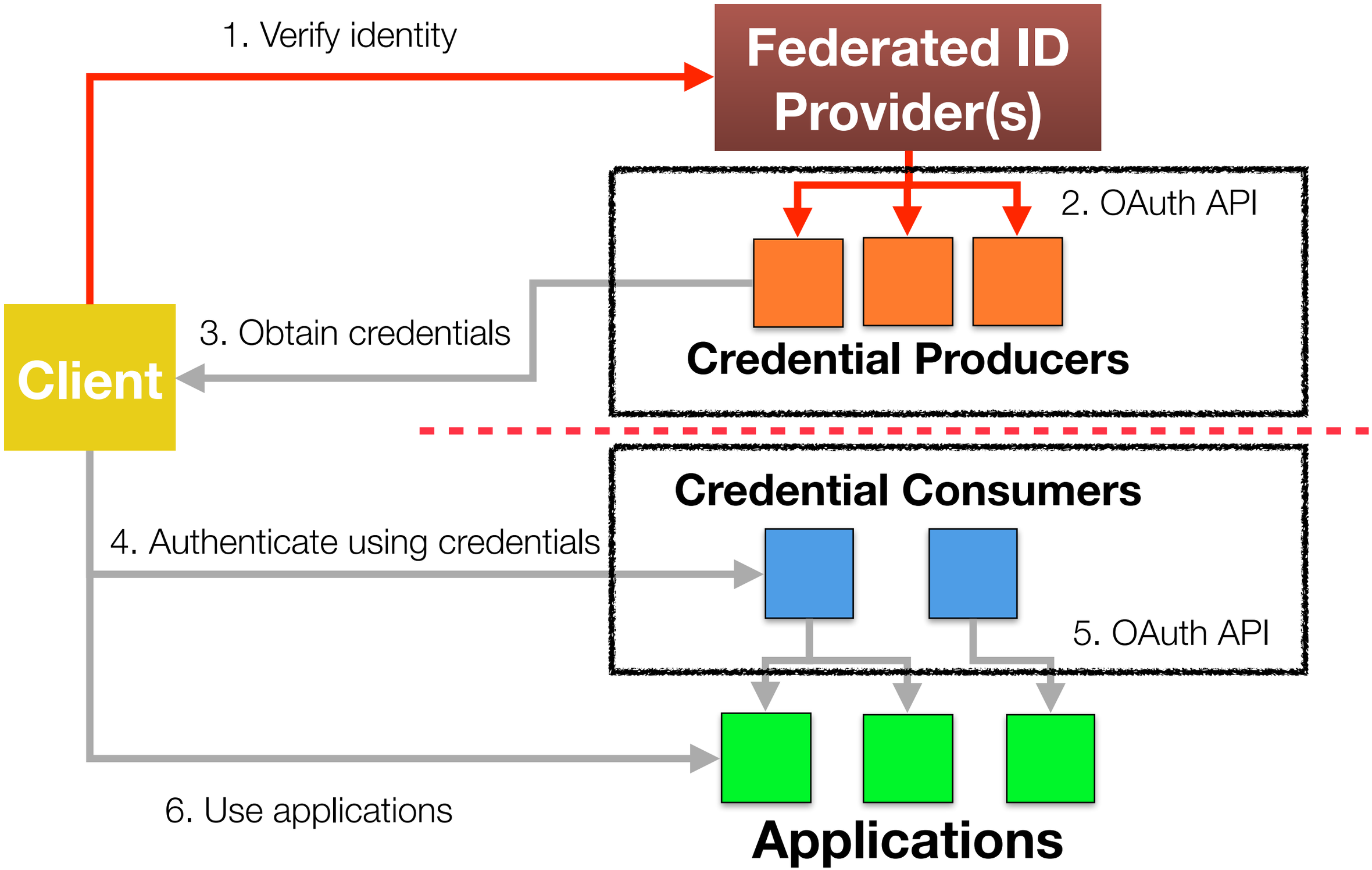
- Several credential producer servers collectively act to assign credentials to clients
- (t,n) threshold model - t of n servers can collectively assign a credential to a client
- Acts as an “application” in OAuth protocol to authenticate client with federated ID provider



System Architecture

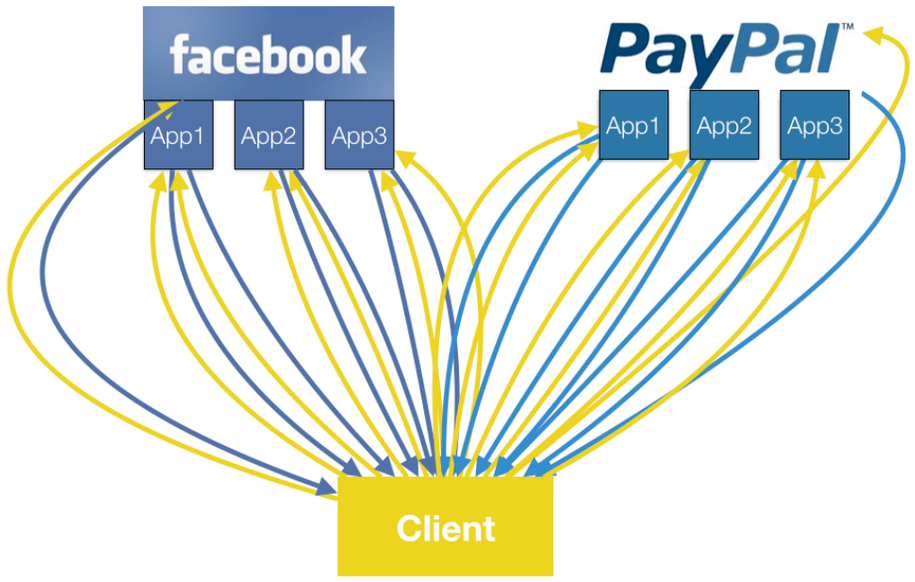


System Architecture

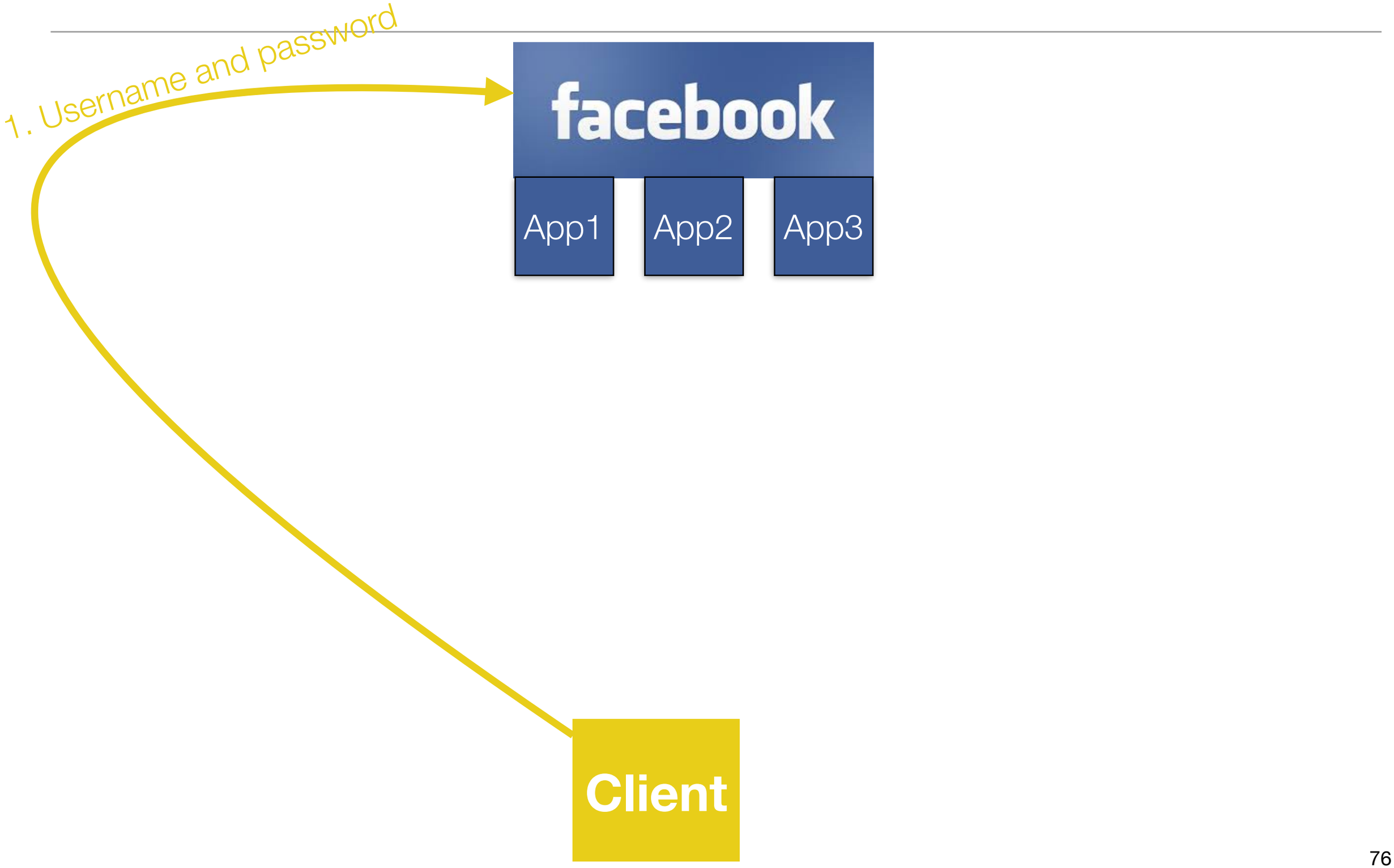


Credential Assignment Mechanism

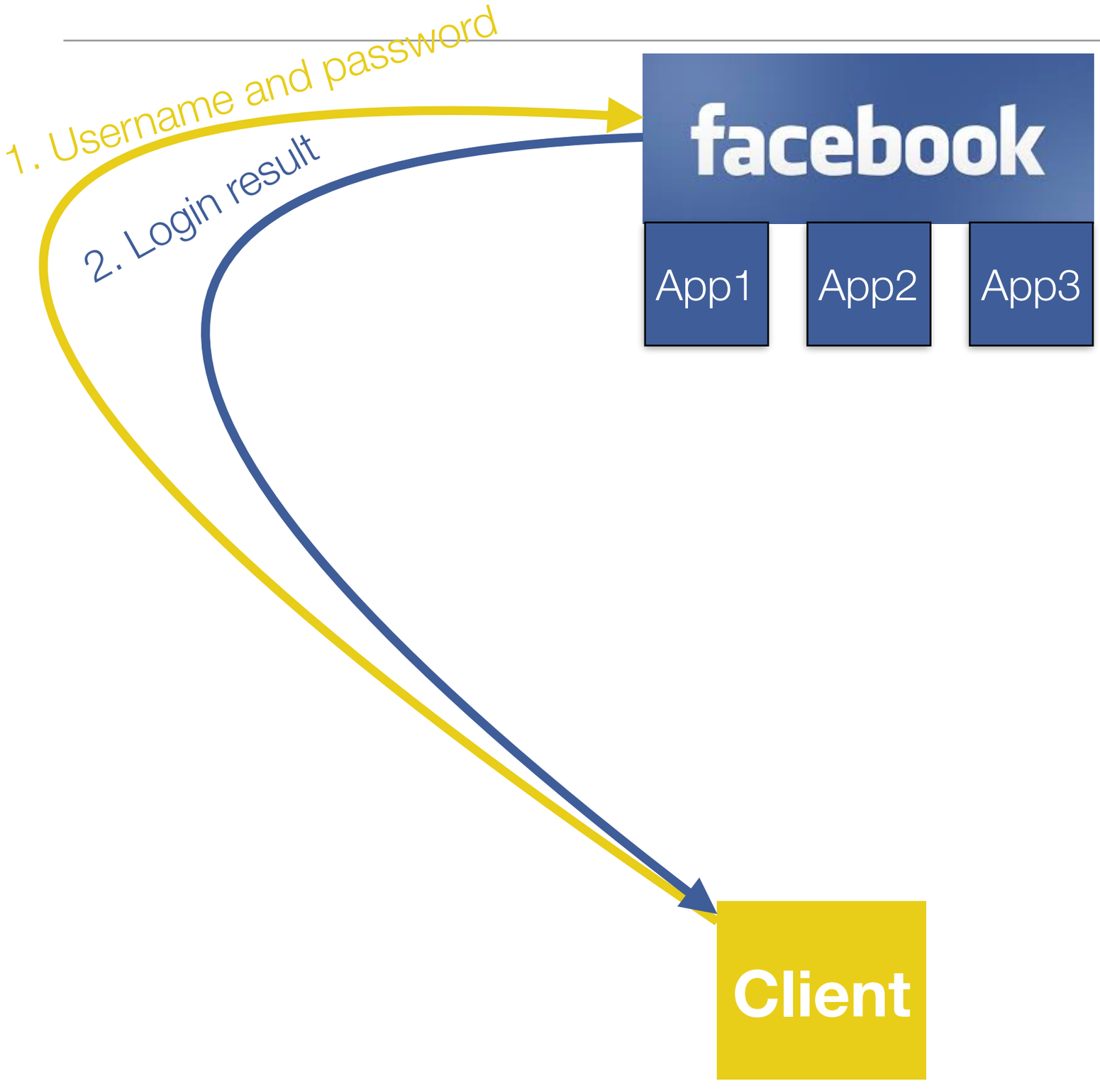
Obtaining OAuth tokens



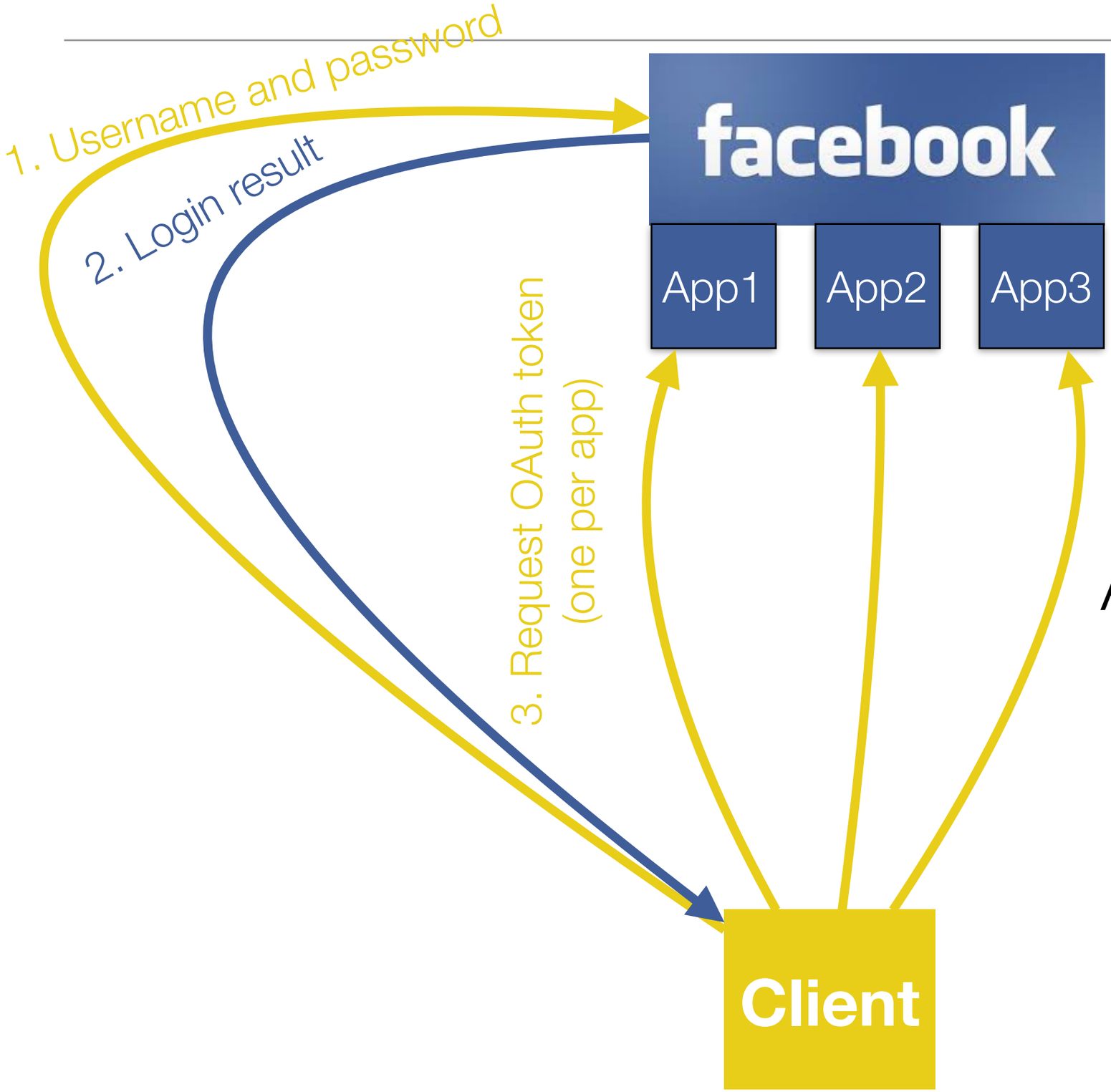
Credential Assignment Mechanism



Credential Assignment Mechanism



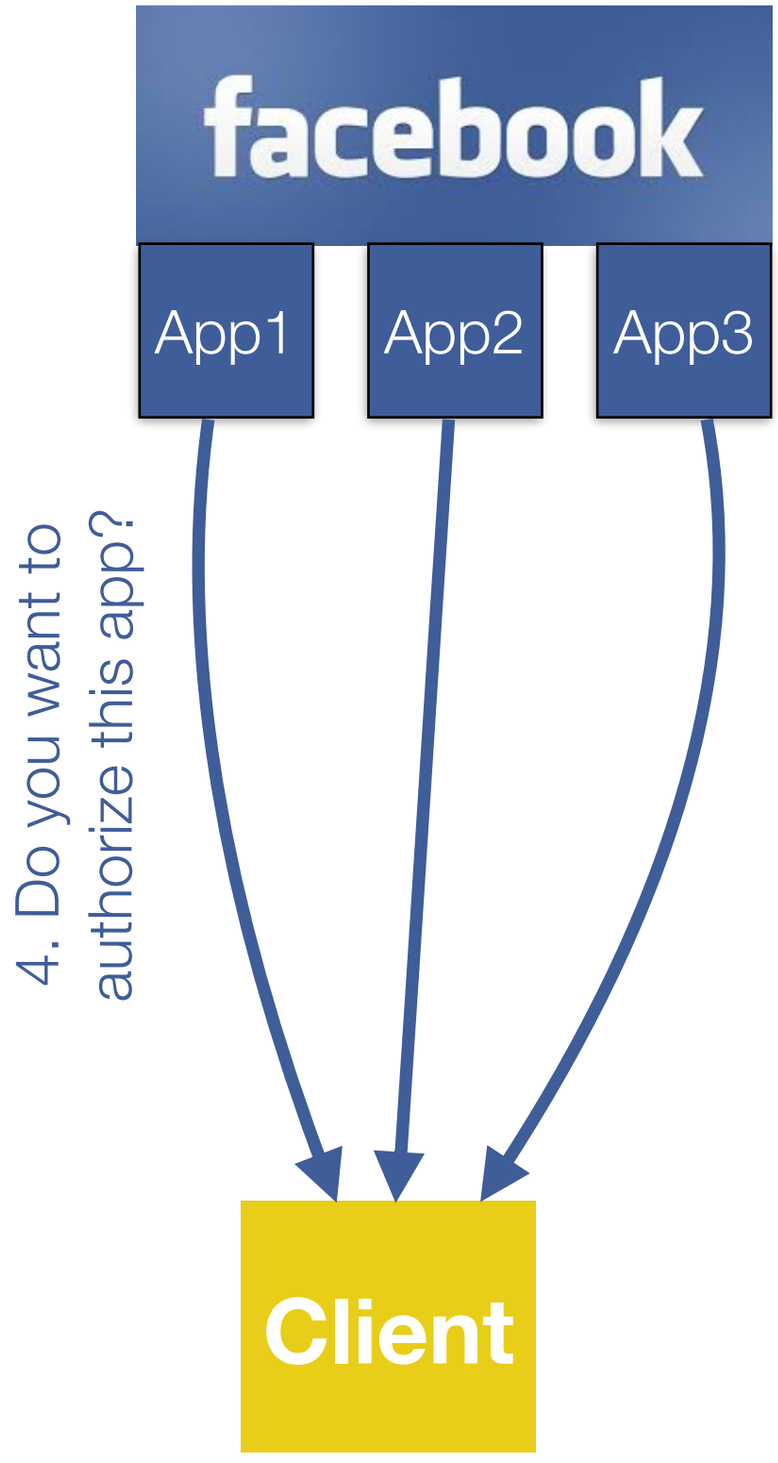
Credential Assignment Mechanism



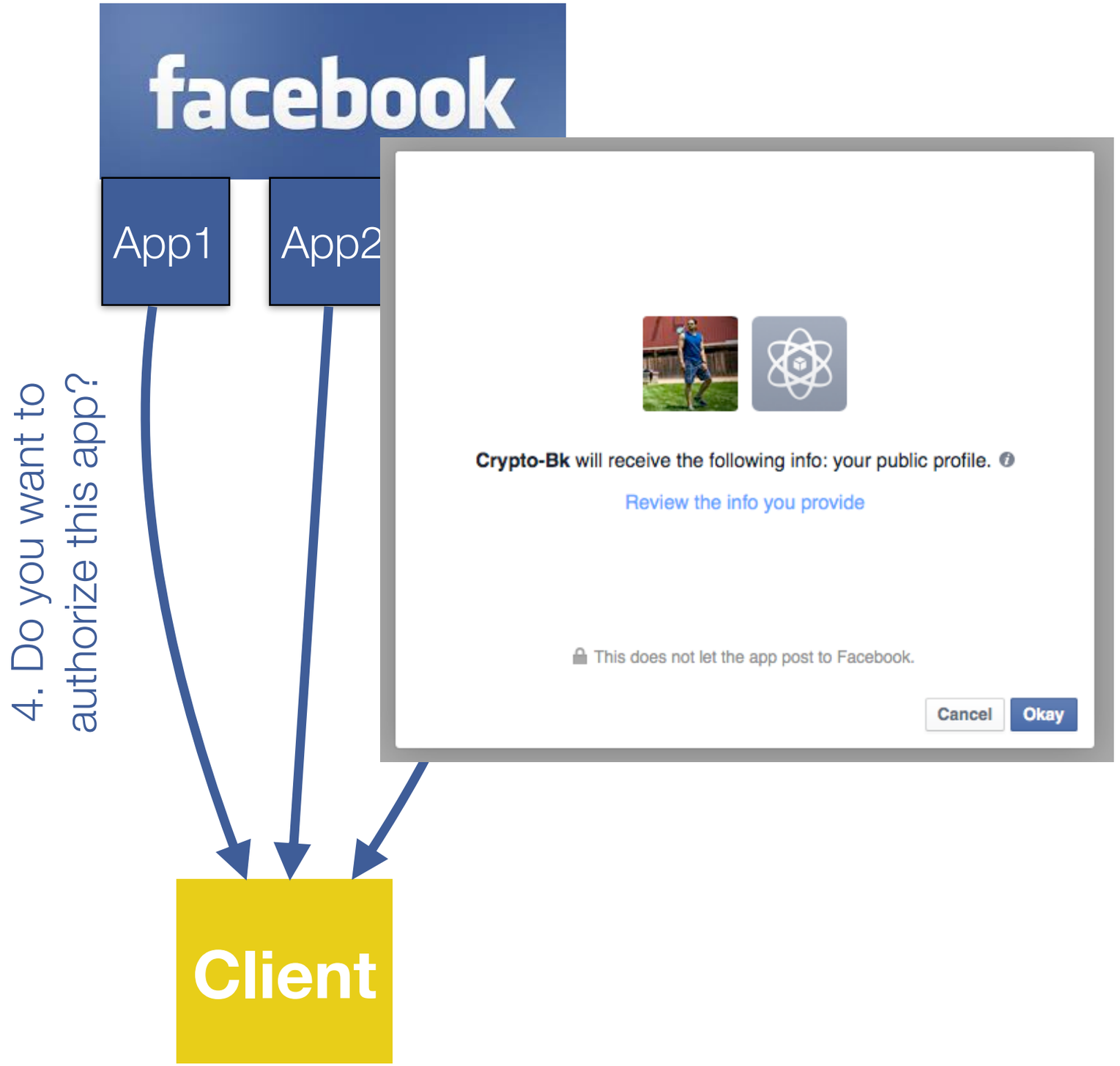
Requests performed in parallel.

Automated by a Chrome extension so user does not have to manually repeat the same task.

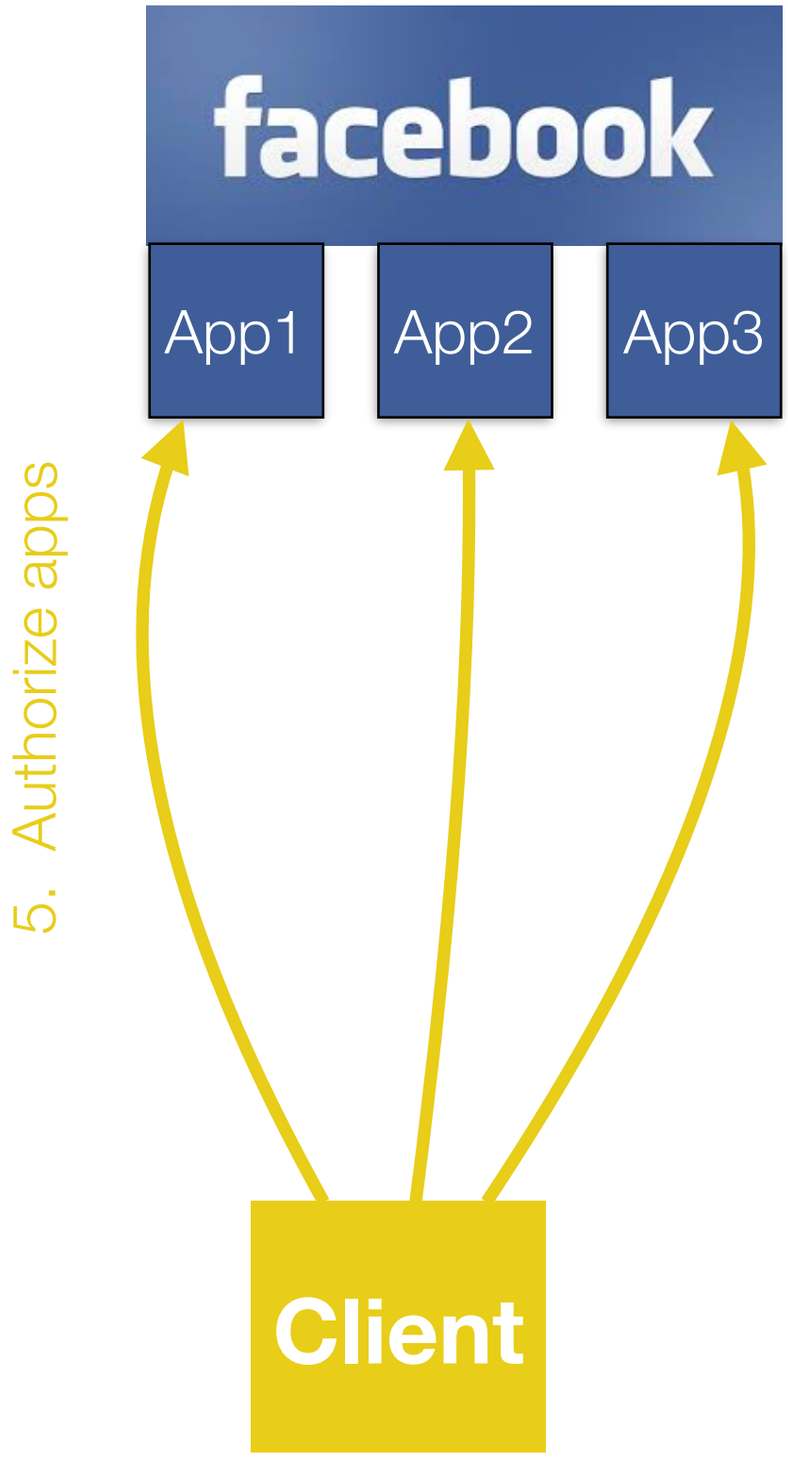
Credential Assignment Mechanism



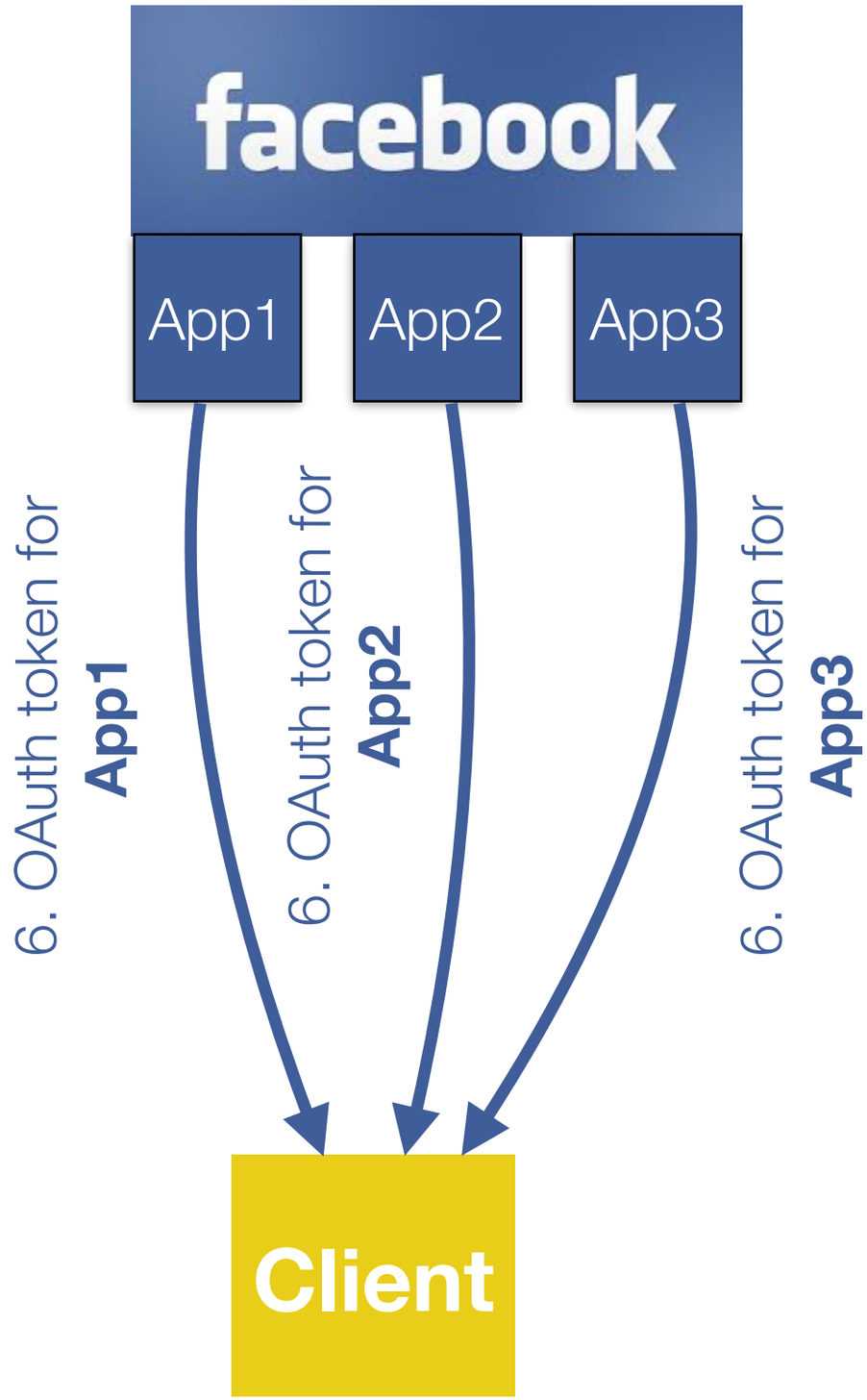
Credential Assignment Mechanism



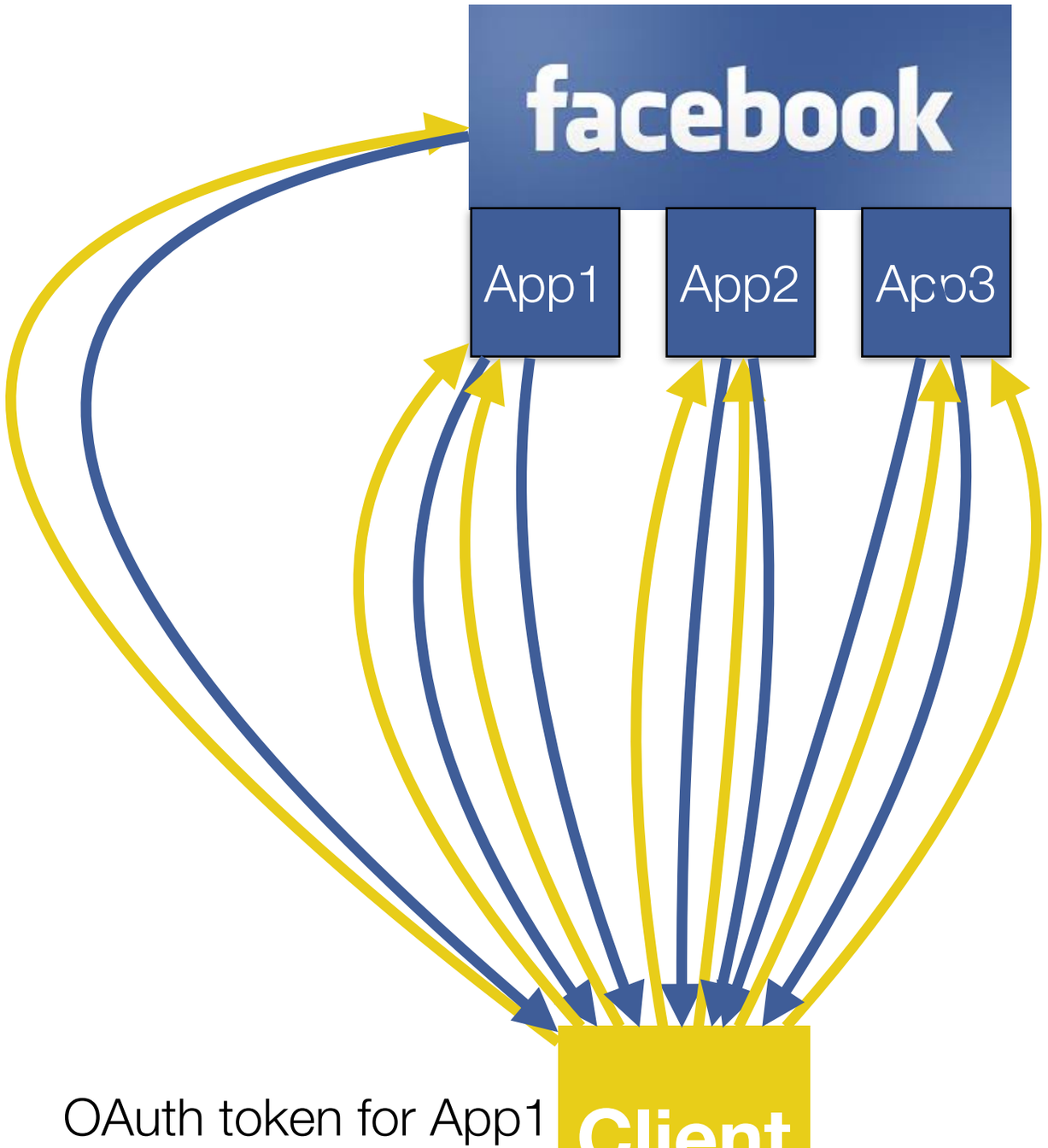
Credential Assignment Mechanism



Credential Assignment Mechanism



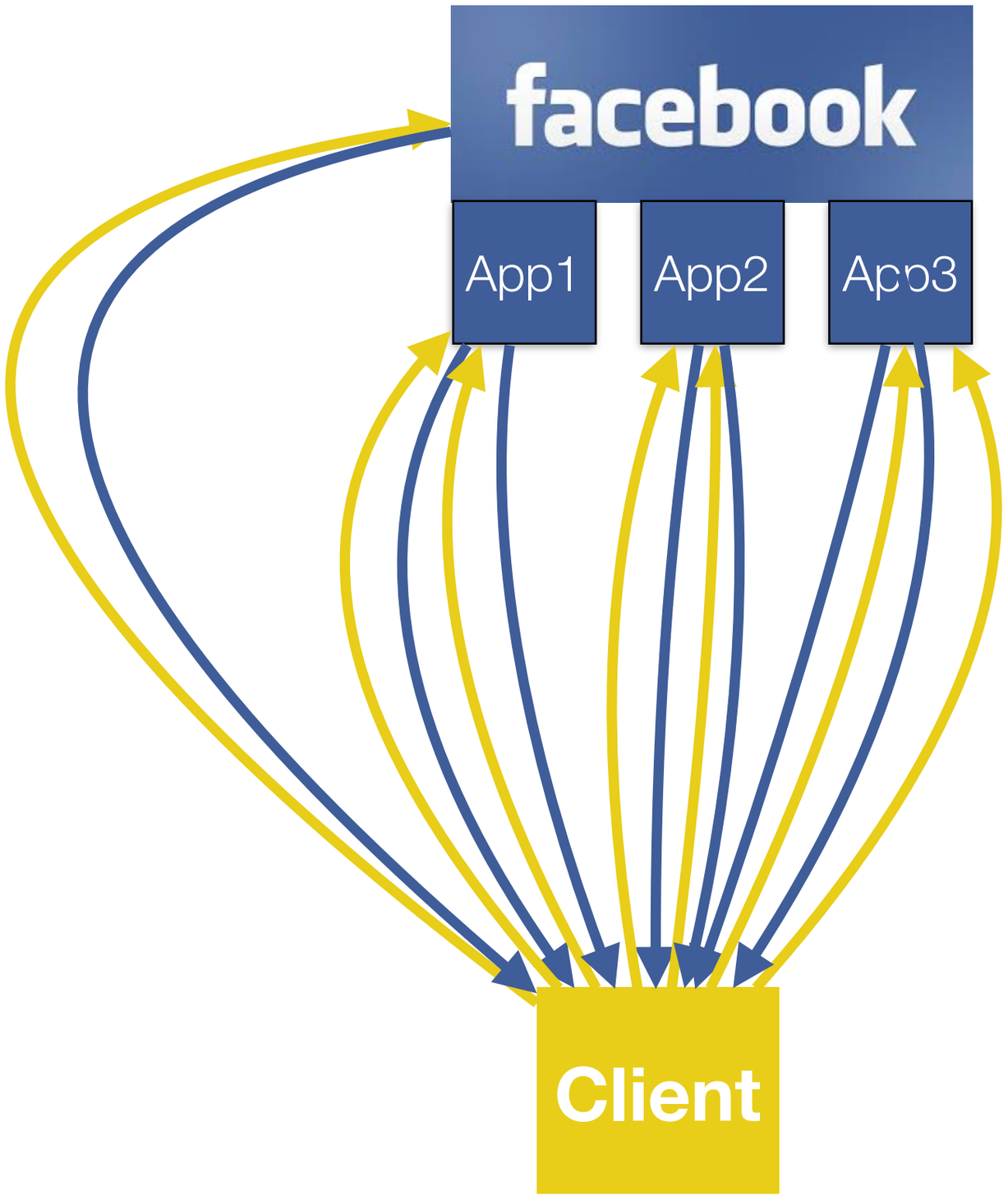
Credential Assignment Mechanism



OAuth token for App1
OAuth token for App2
OAuth token for App3

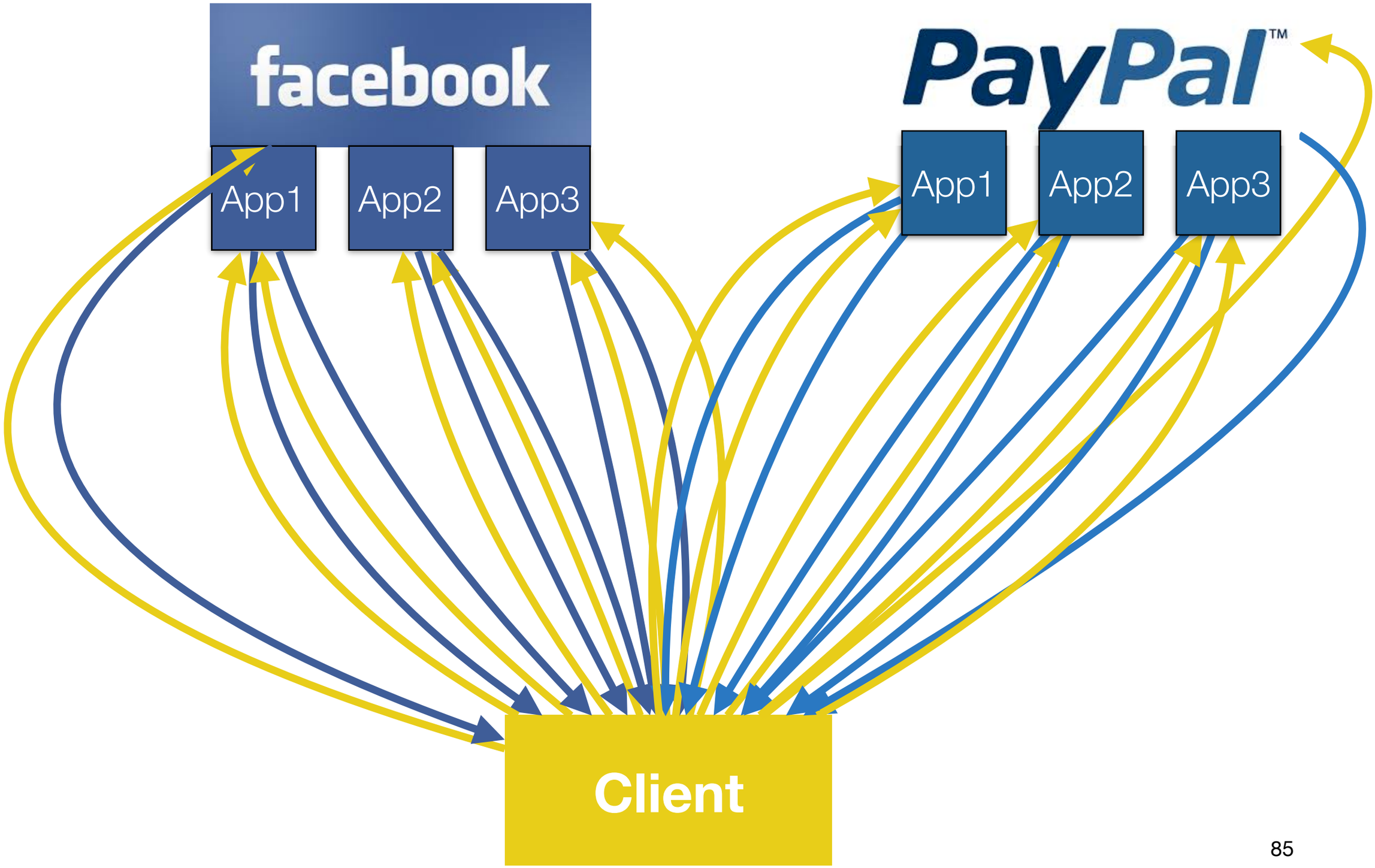
Client now has one OAuth token per app. Each app corresponds to one credential producer server.

Credential Assignment Mechanism

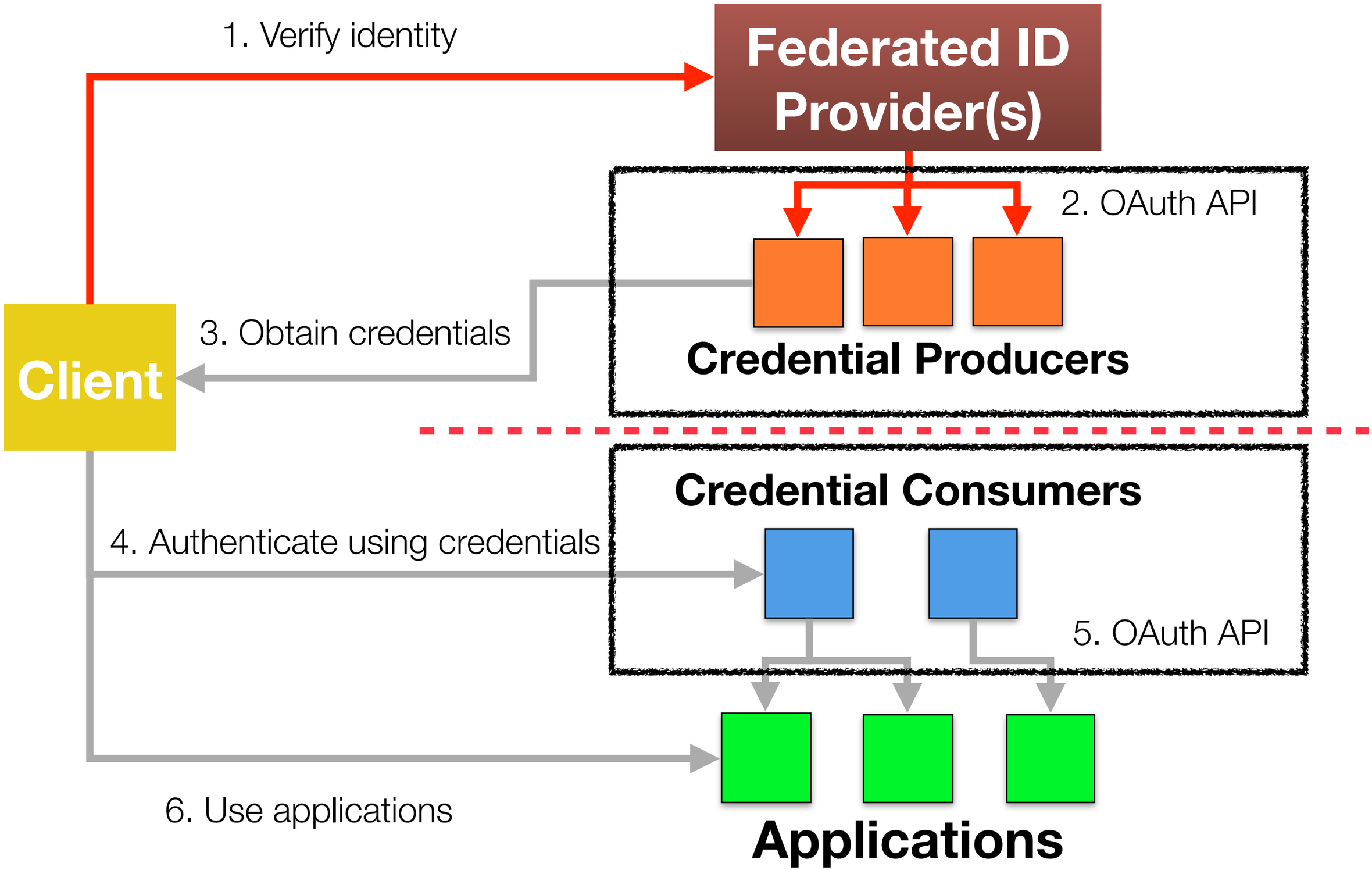


Multiple ID provider use case: This process is performed for each federated ID provider. The user only has to enter their username and password once per federated ID provider. The other steps are automated by a Chrome extension.

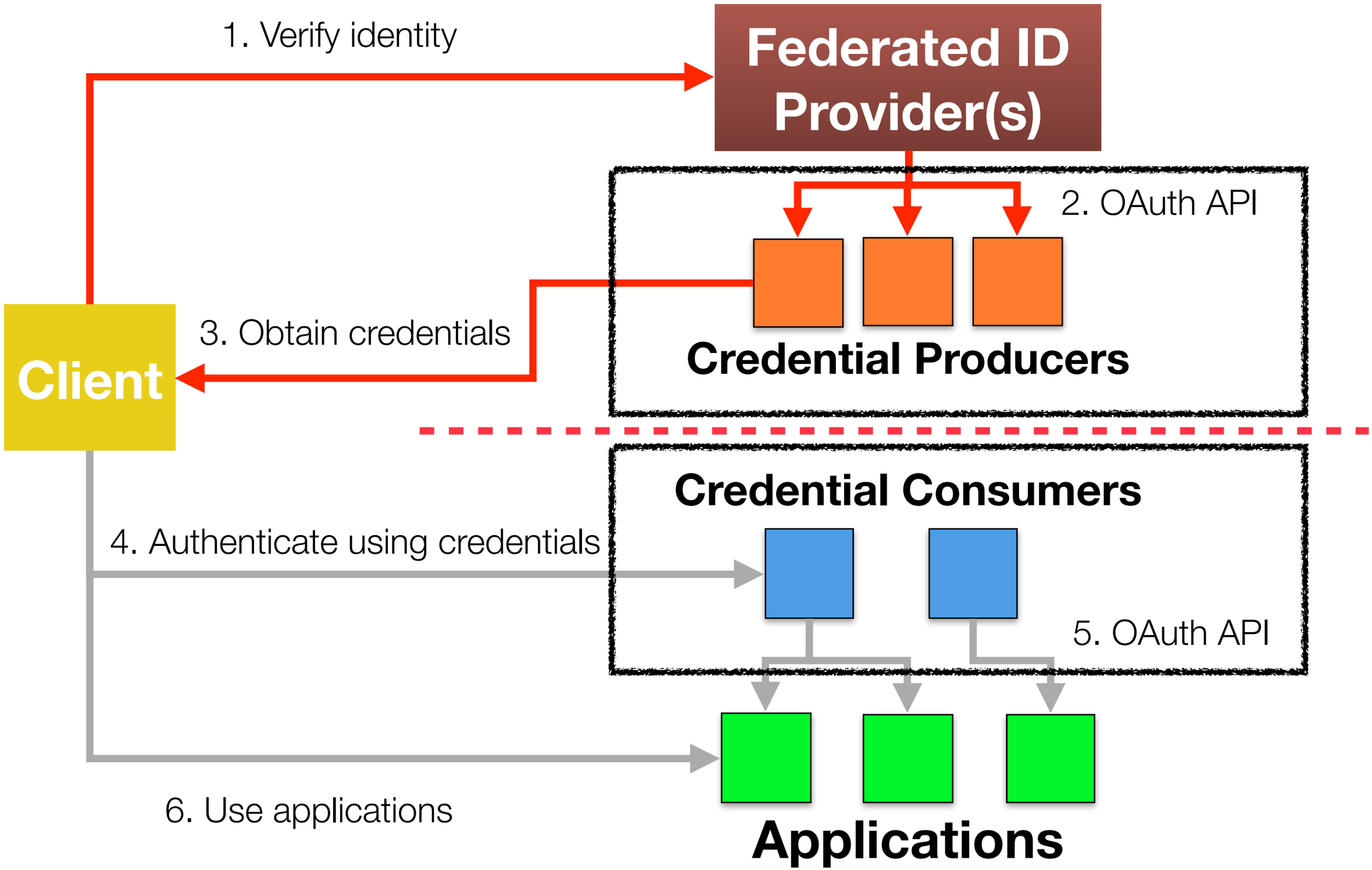
Credential Assignment Mechanism



System Architecture

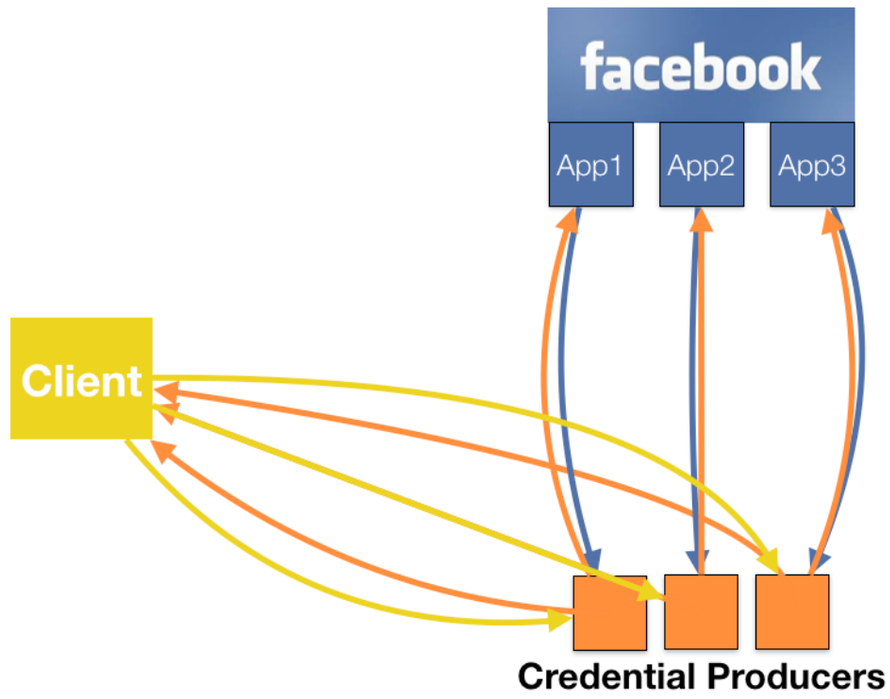


System Architecture



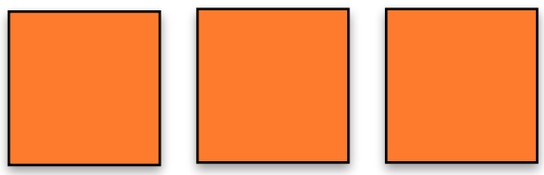
Credential Assignment Mechanism

Obtaining credentials



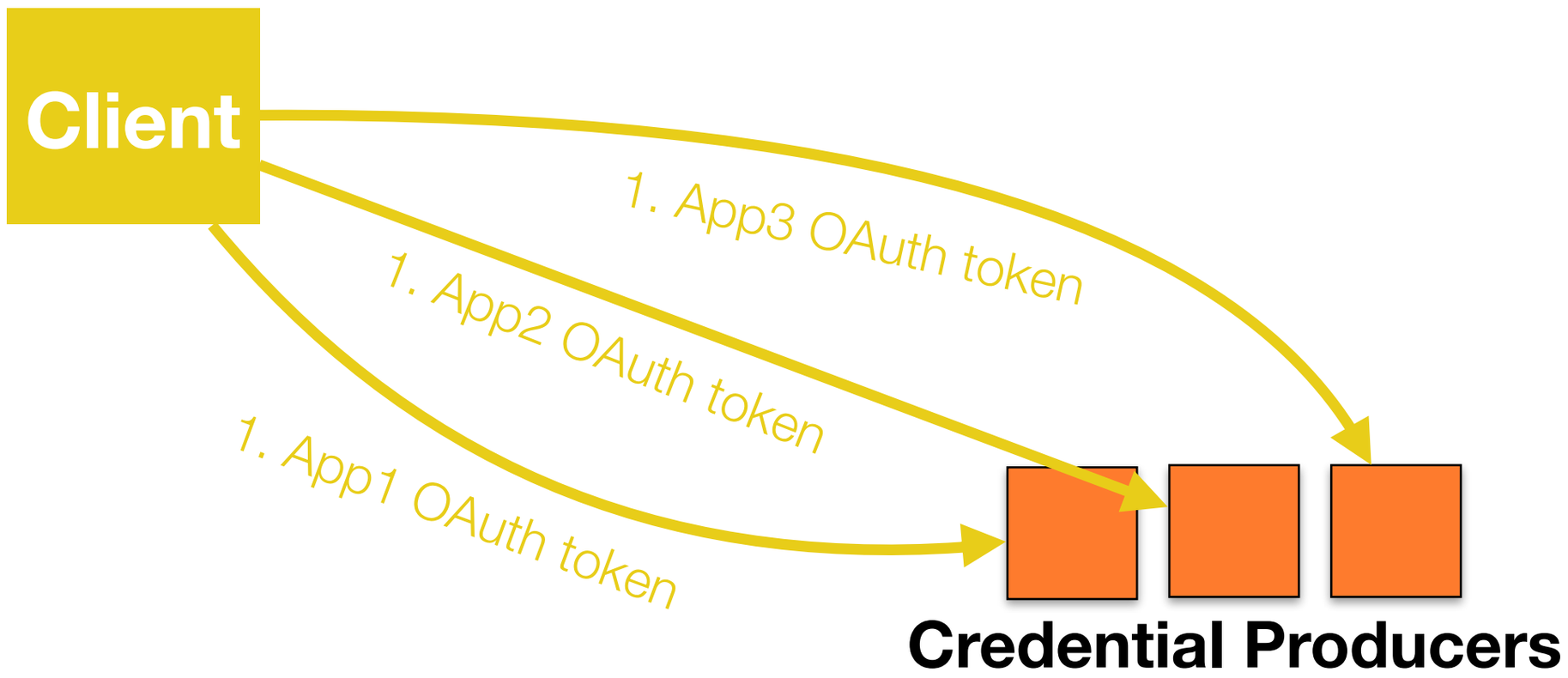
Credential Assignment Mechanism

Client

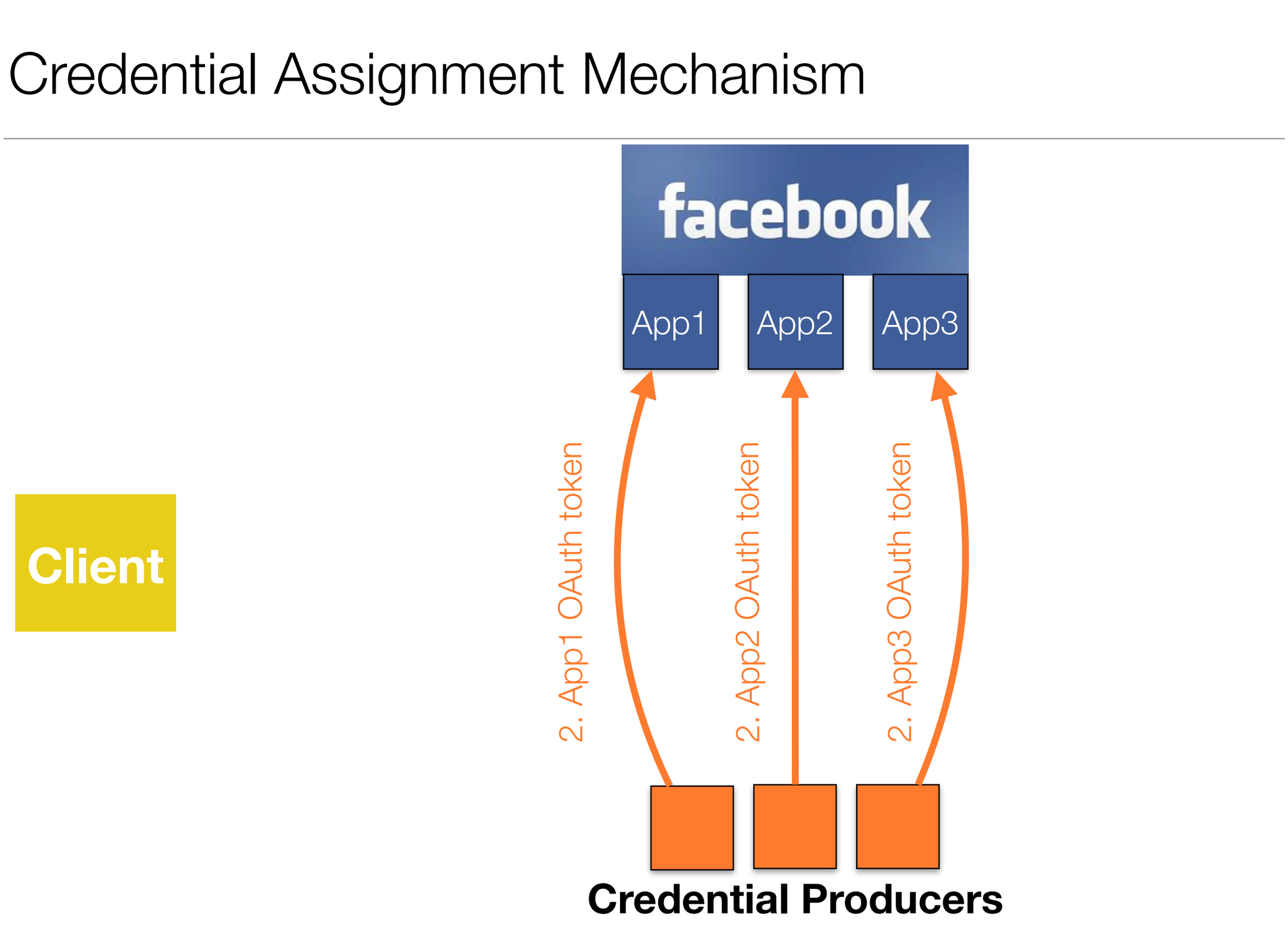


Credential Producers

Credential Assignment Mechanism

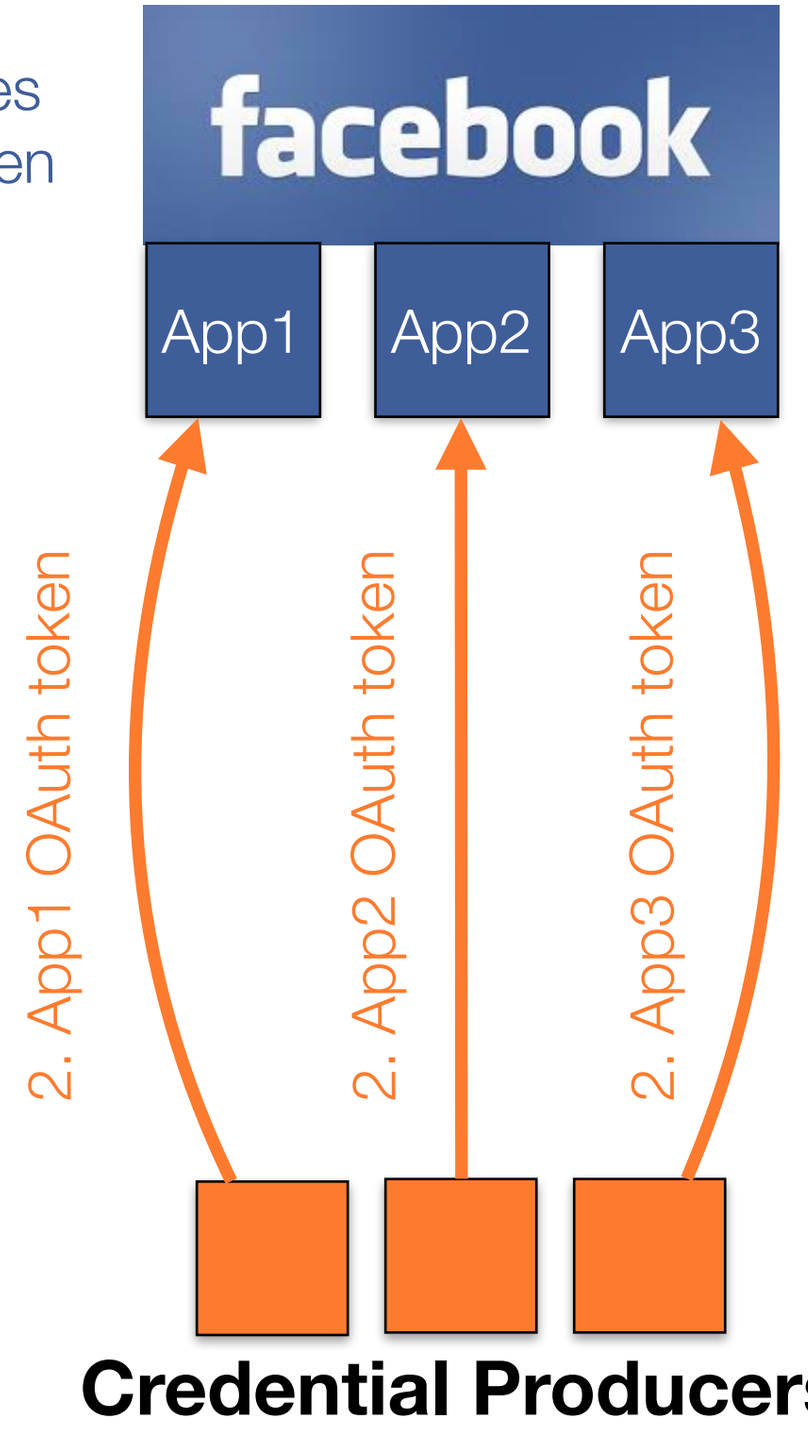


Credential Assignment Mechanism



Credential Assignment Mechanism

3. Each app verifies corresponding token

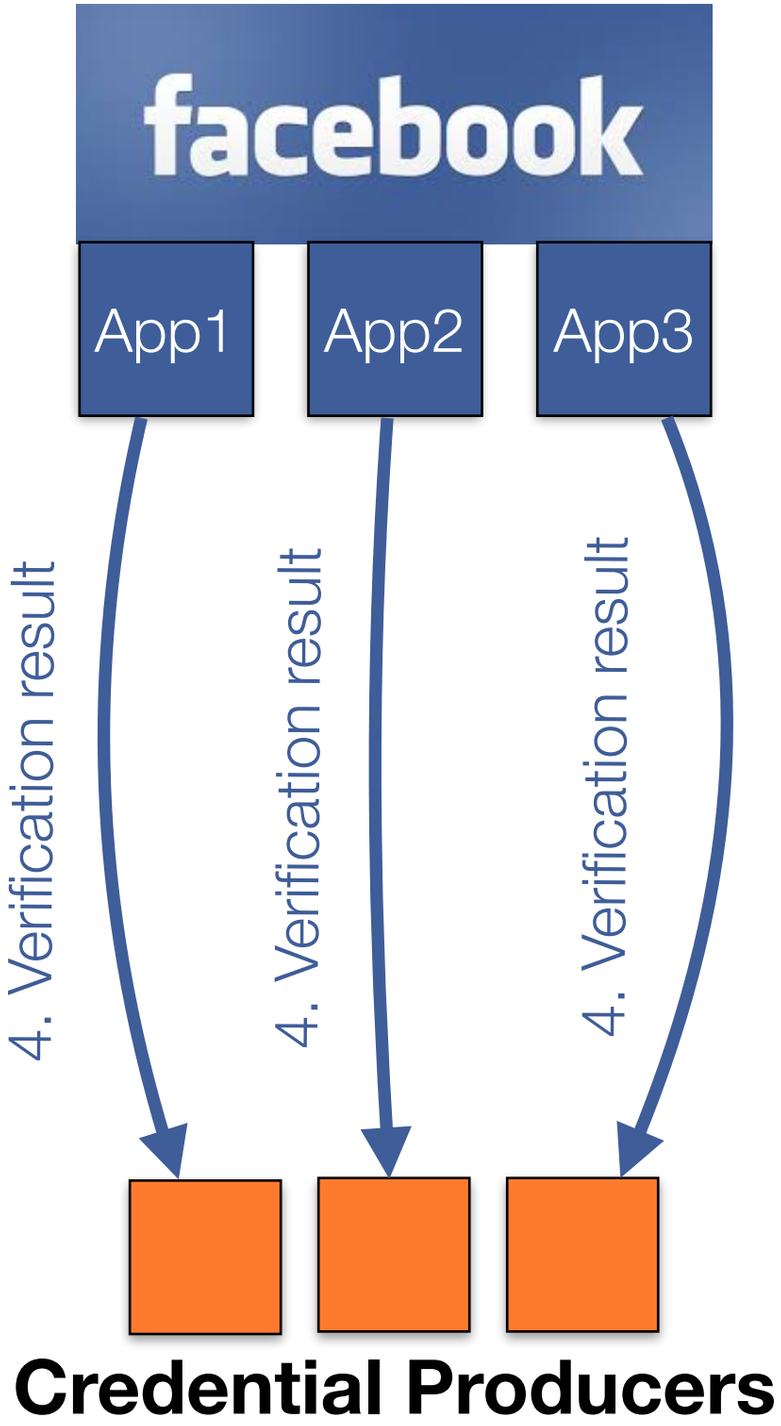


Client

Credential Assignment Mechanism

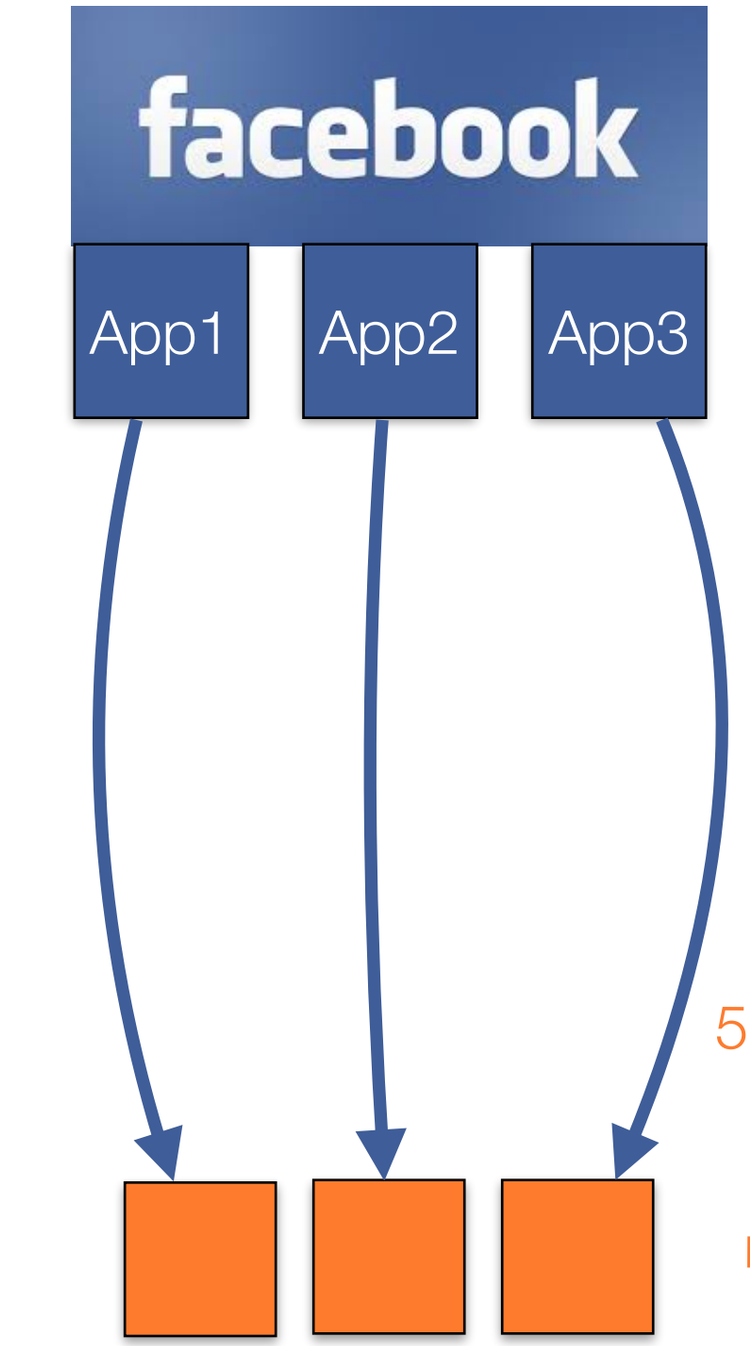
3. Each app verifies corresponding token

Client



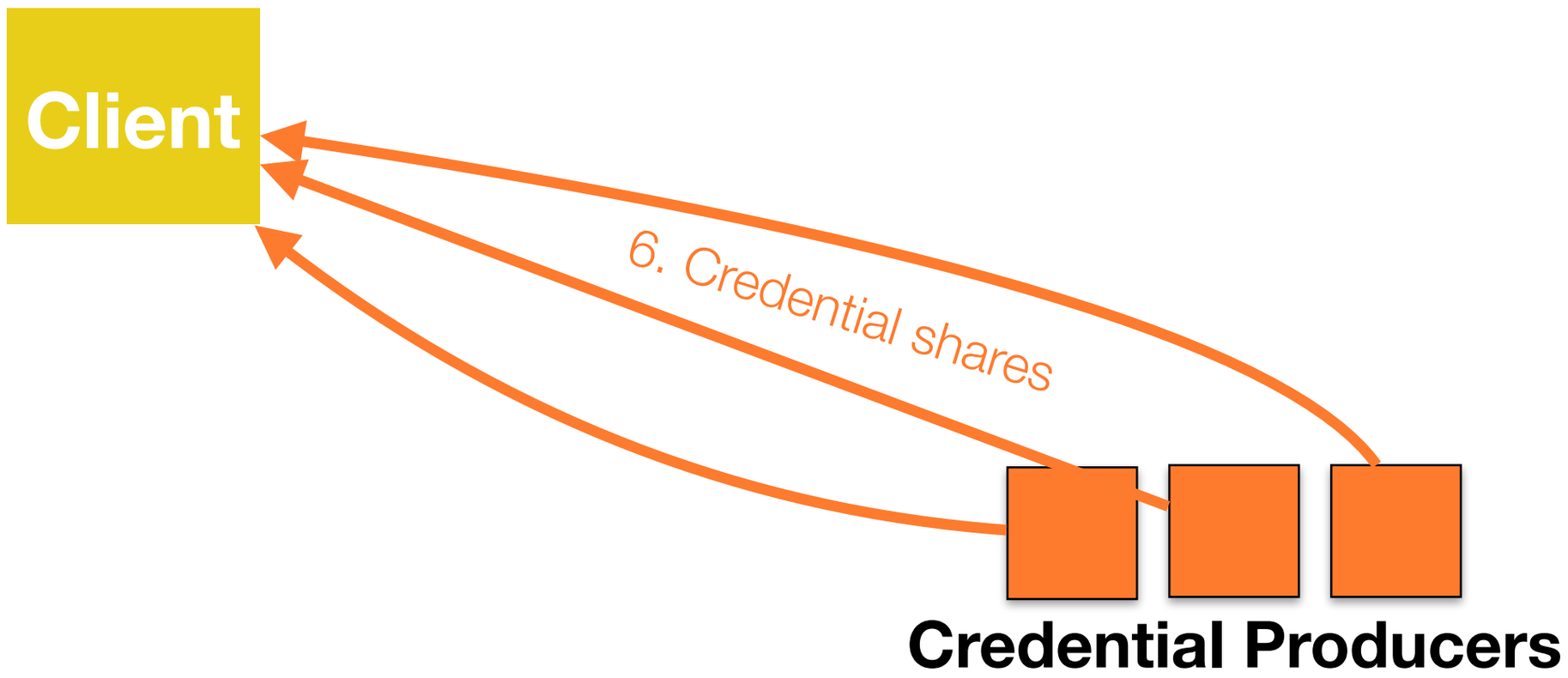
Credential Assignment Mechanism

Client



5. If OAuth token verified successfully, each credential producer returns its share of the credential to the client

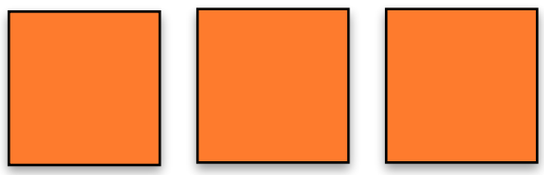
Credential Assignment Mechanism



Credential Assignment Mechanism

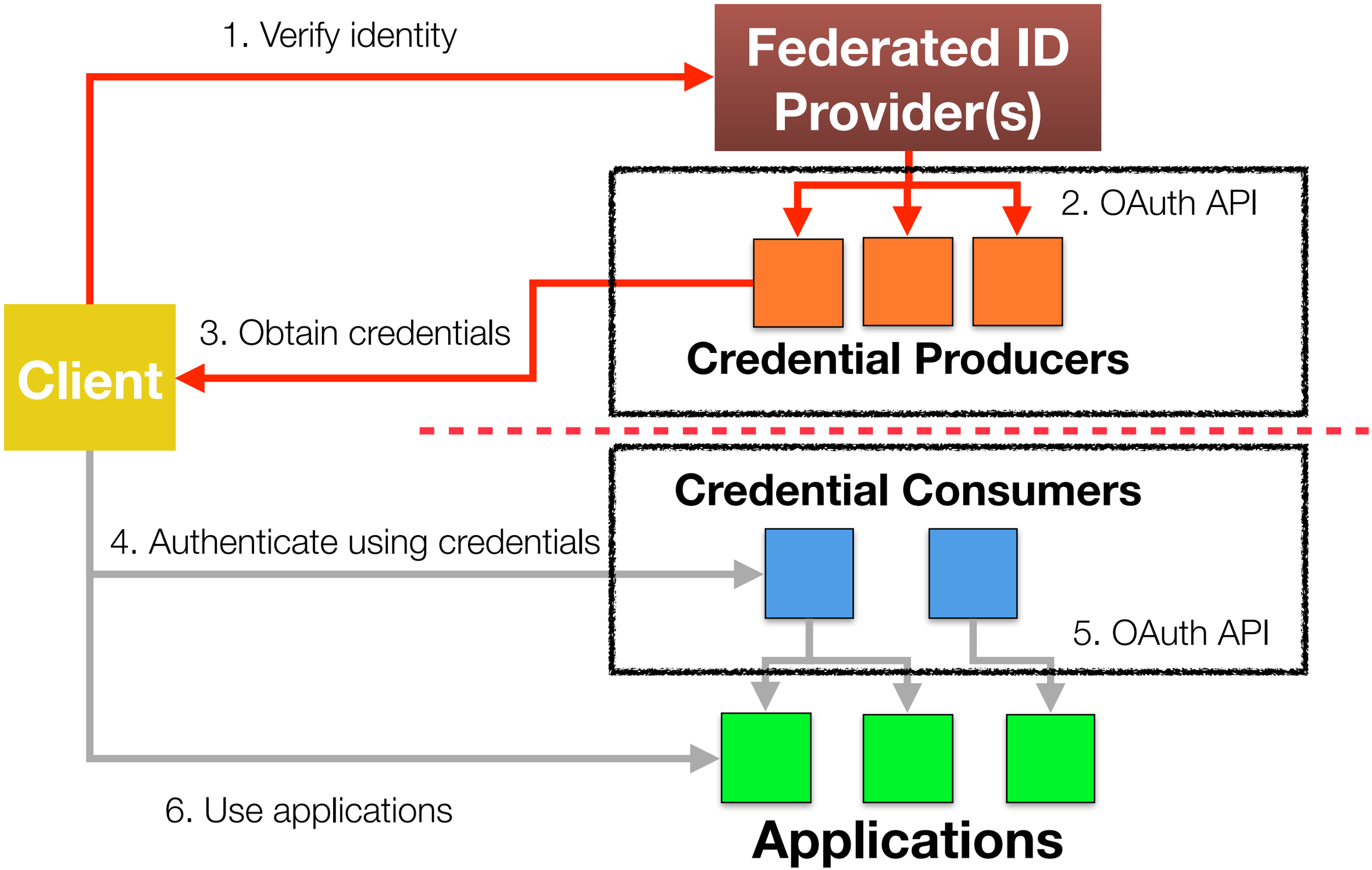
Client

7. Client combines credential shares to obtain overall credential.

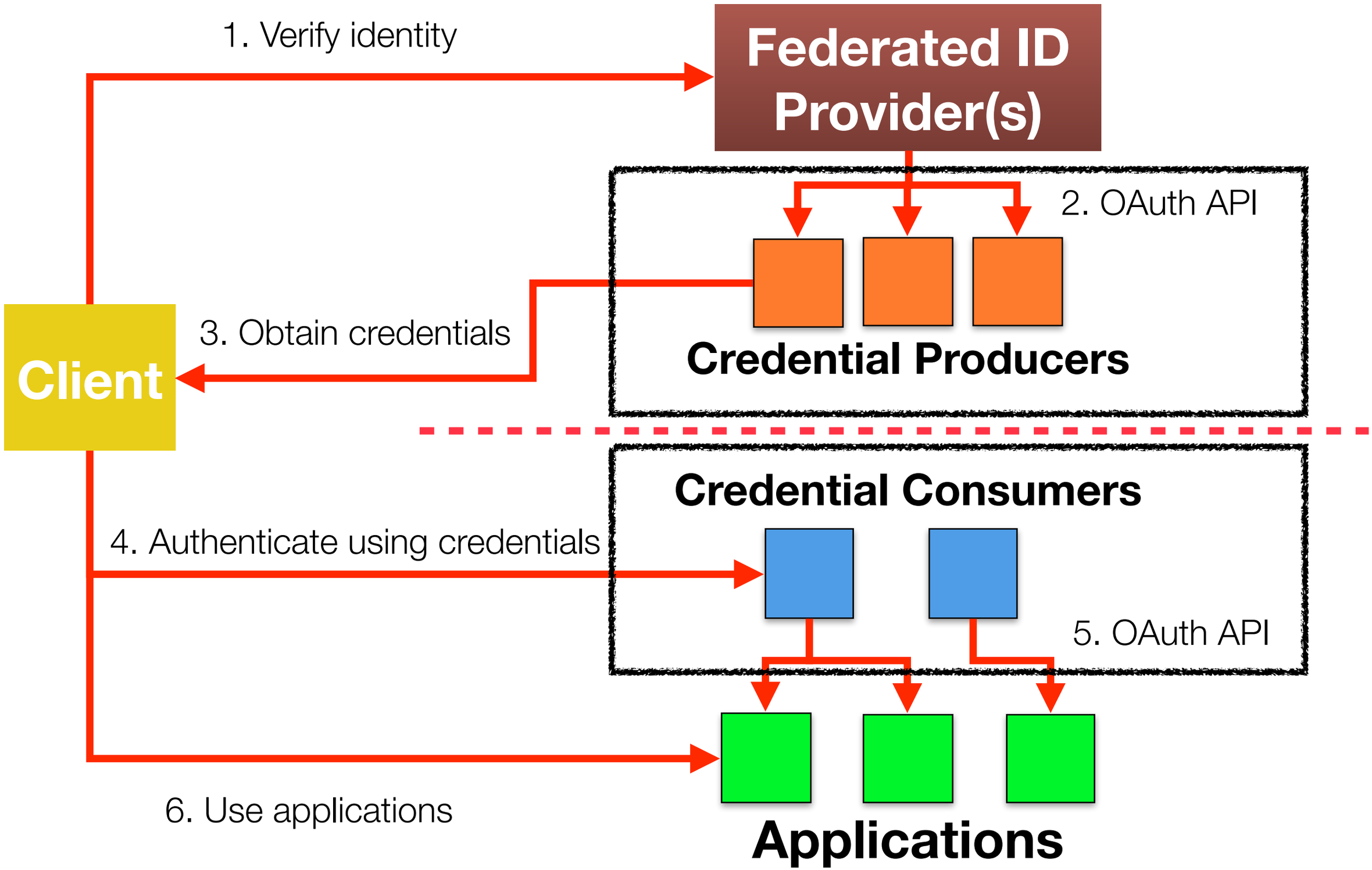


Credential Producers

System Architecture

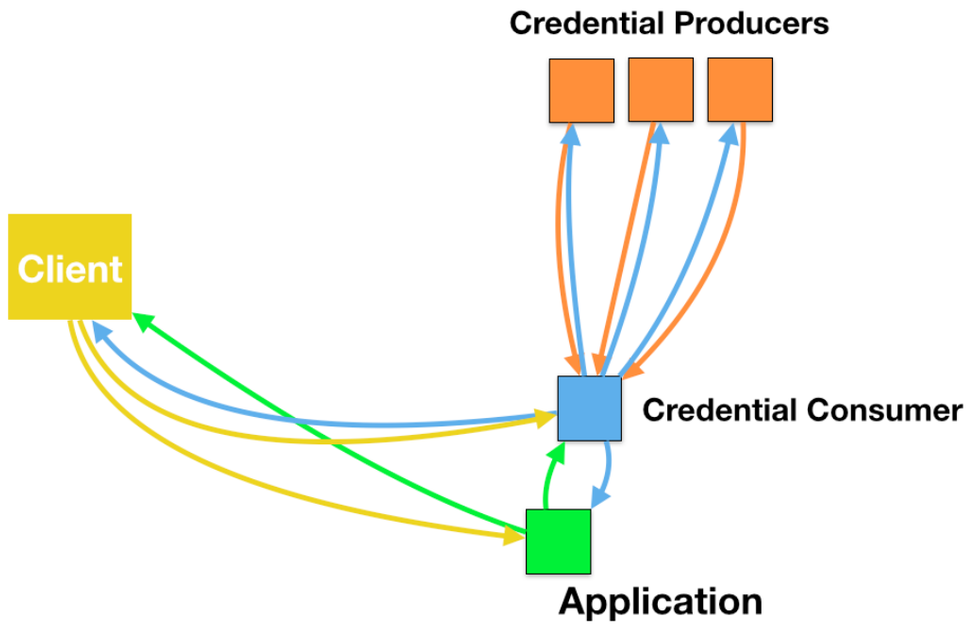


System Architecture

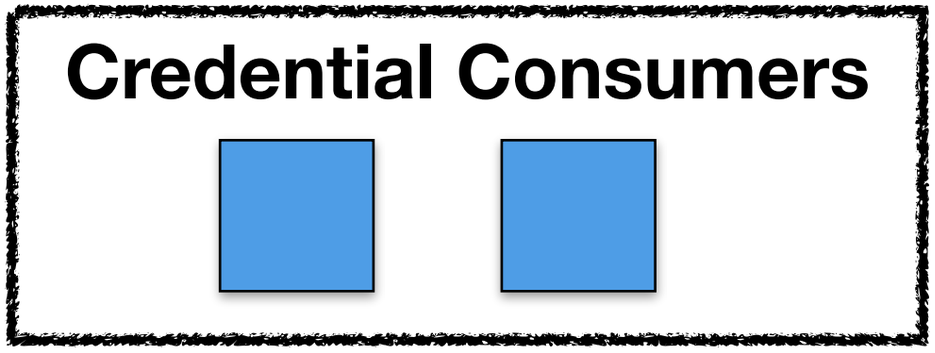


Credential Consumers

Authenticating with and using privacy preserving credentials

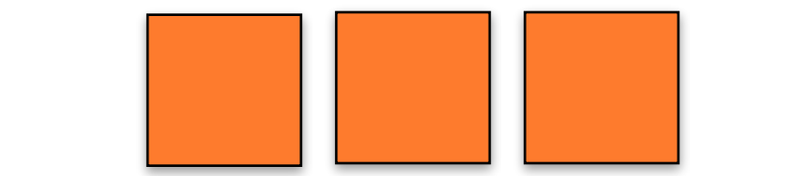


Credential Consumers

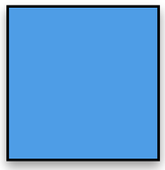


- Map credentials to pseudonyms
- Pseudonyms produced are not linkable back to federated IDs
- **OAuth provider consumers:** Expose pseudonym IDs to applications via OAuth.
  Easily integrate with applications already using federated authentication
- **Application-embedded consumer** directly in application

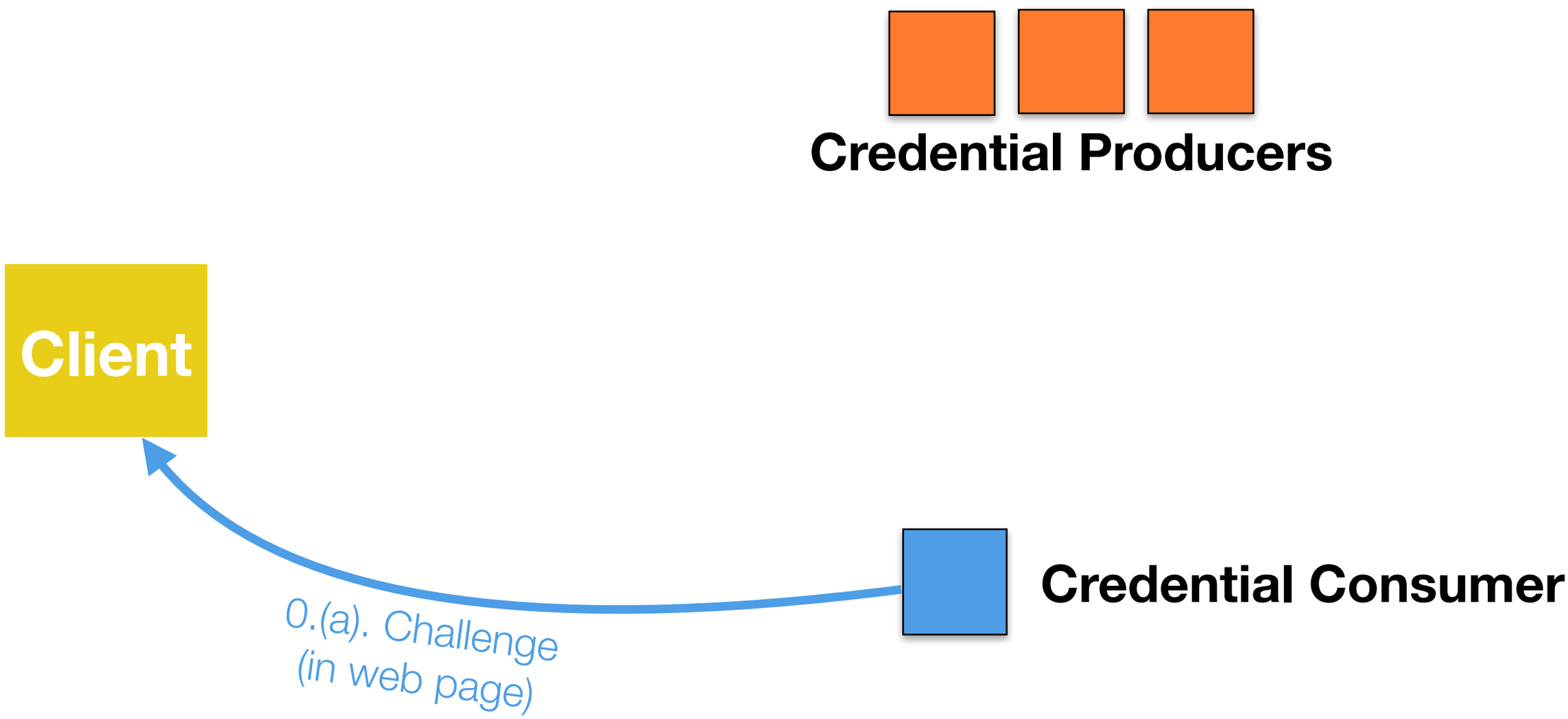
System Architecture



Client

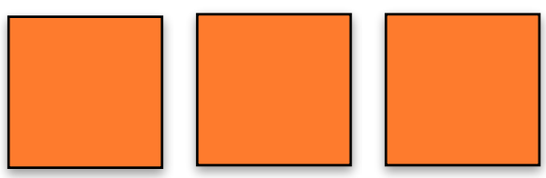


System Architecture

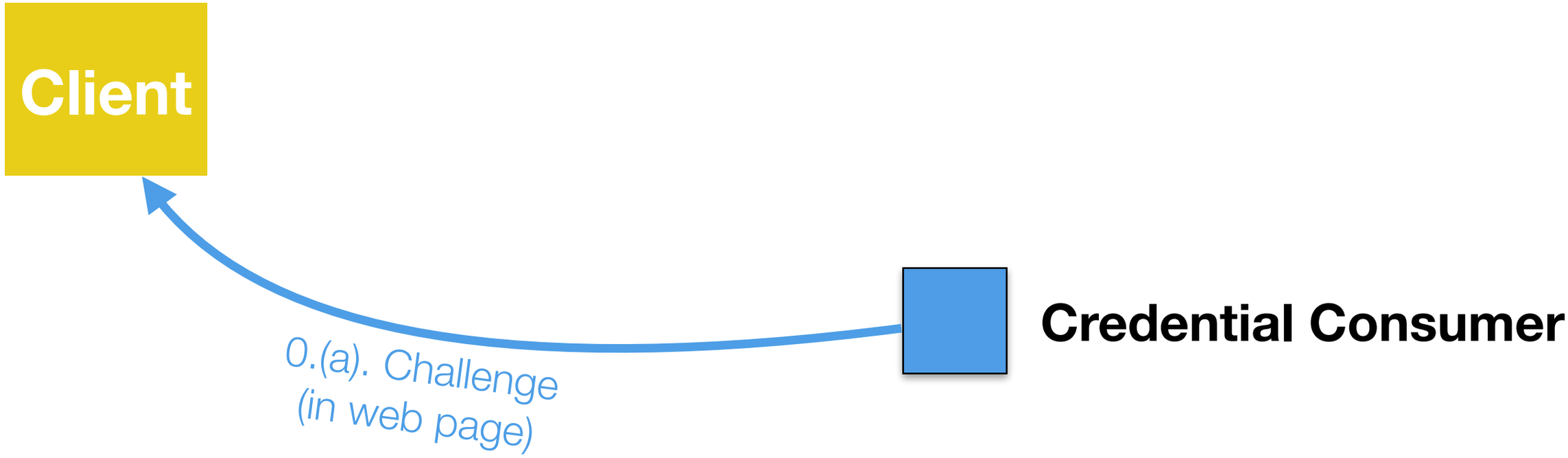


System Architecture

0.(b). Client signs challenge using credentials (signing performed by browser extension)

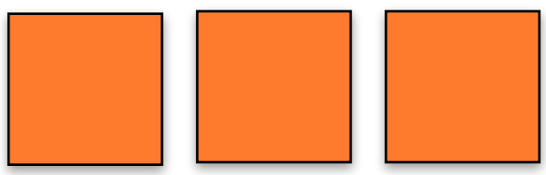


Credential Producers



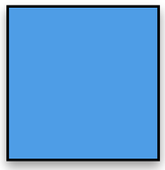
System Architecture

1. Browser extension fills in hidden form with signature



Credential Producers

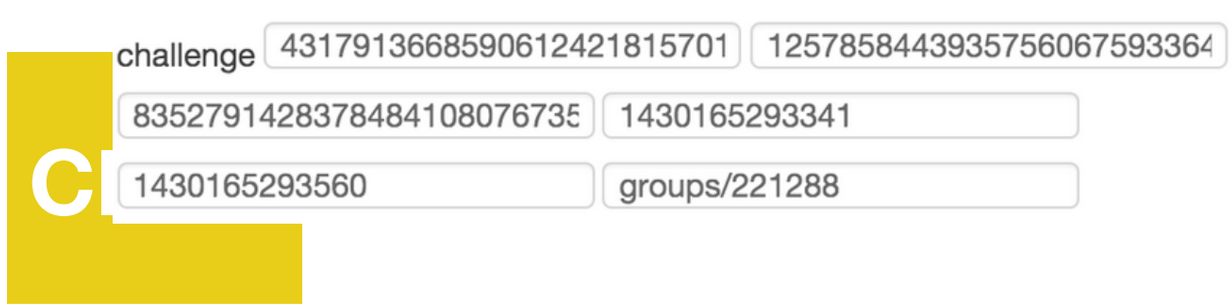
Client

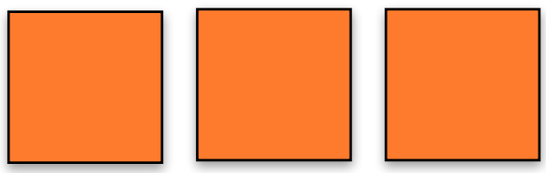


Credential Consumer

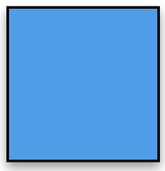
System Architecture

1. Browser extension fills in hidden form with signature



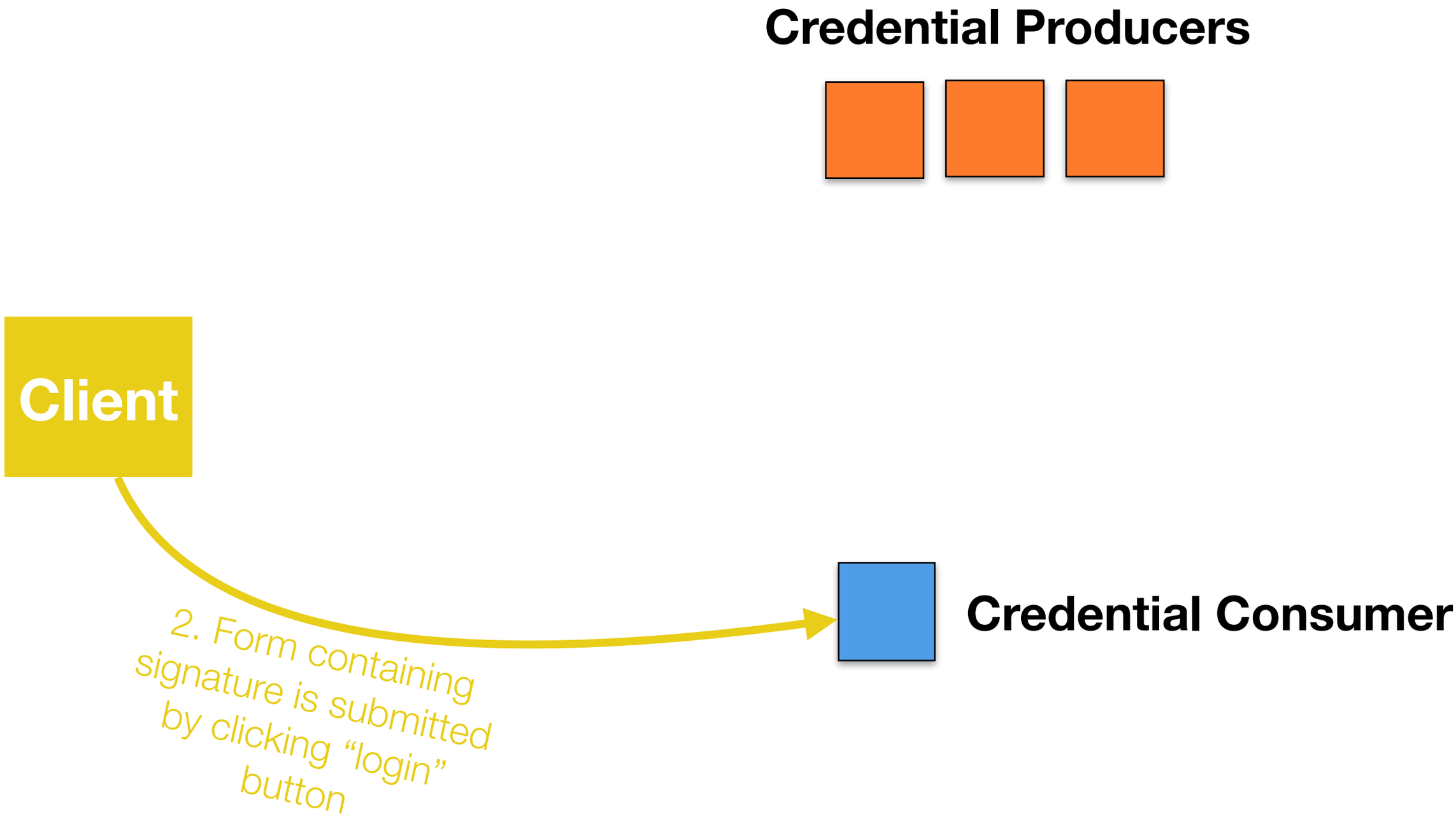


Credential Producers



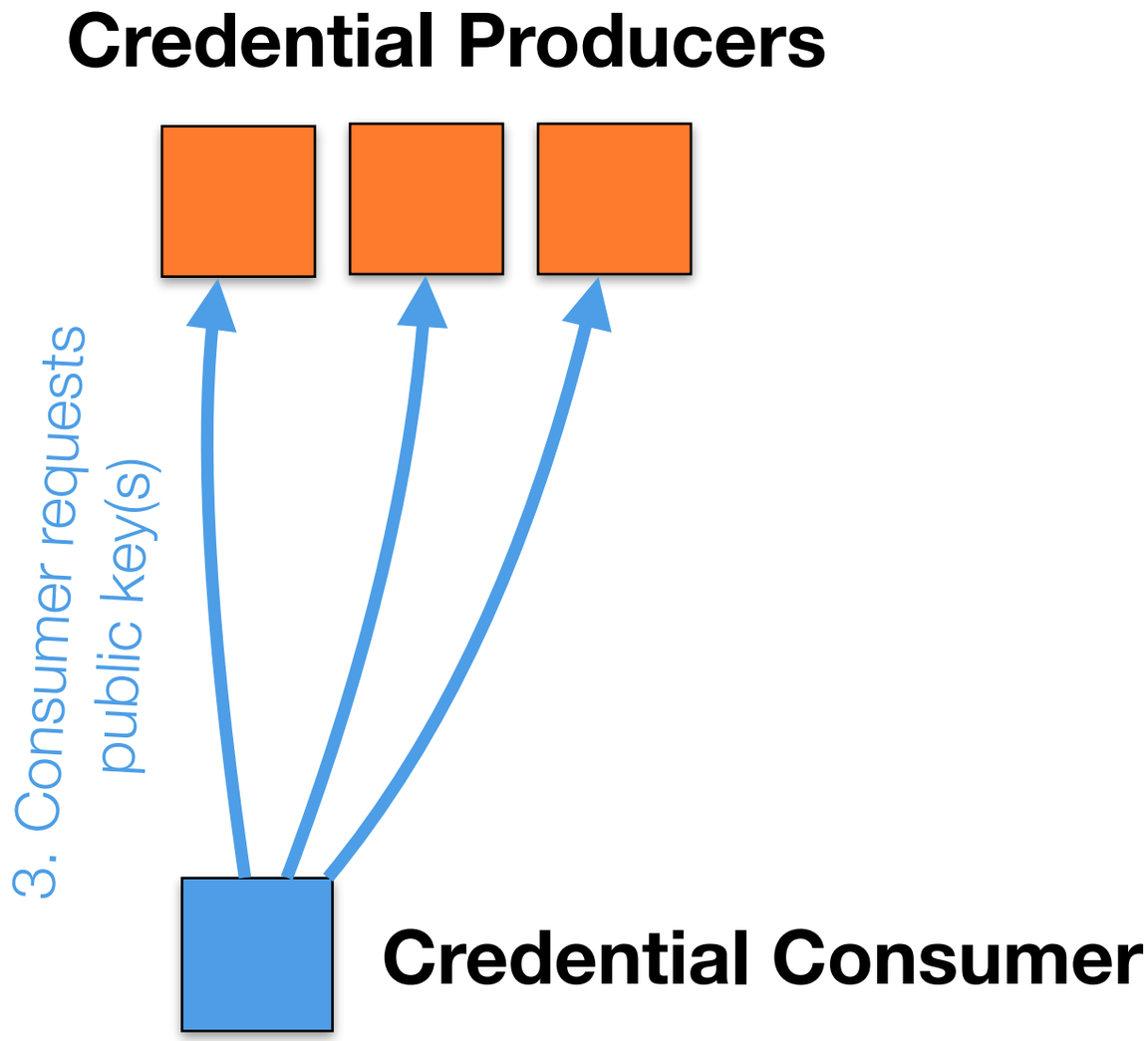
Credential Consumer

System Architecture



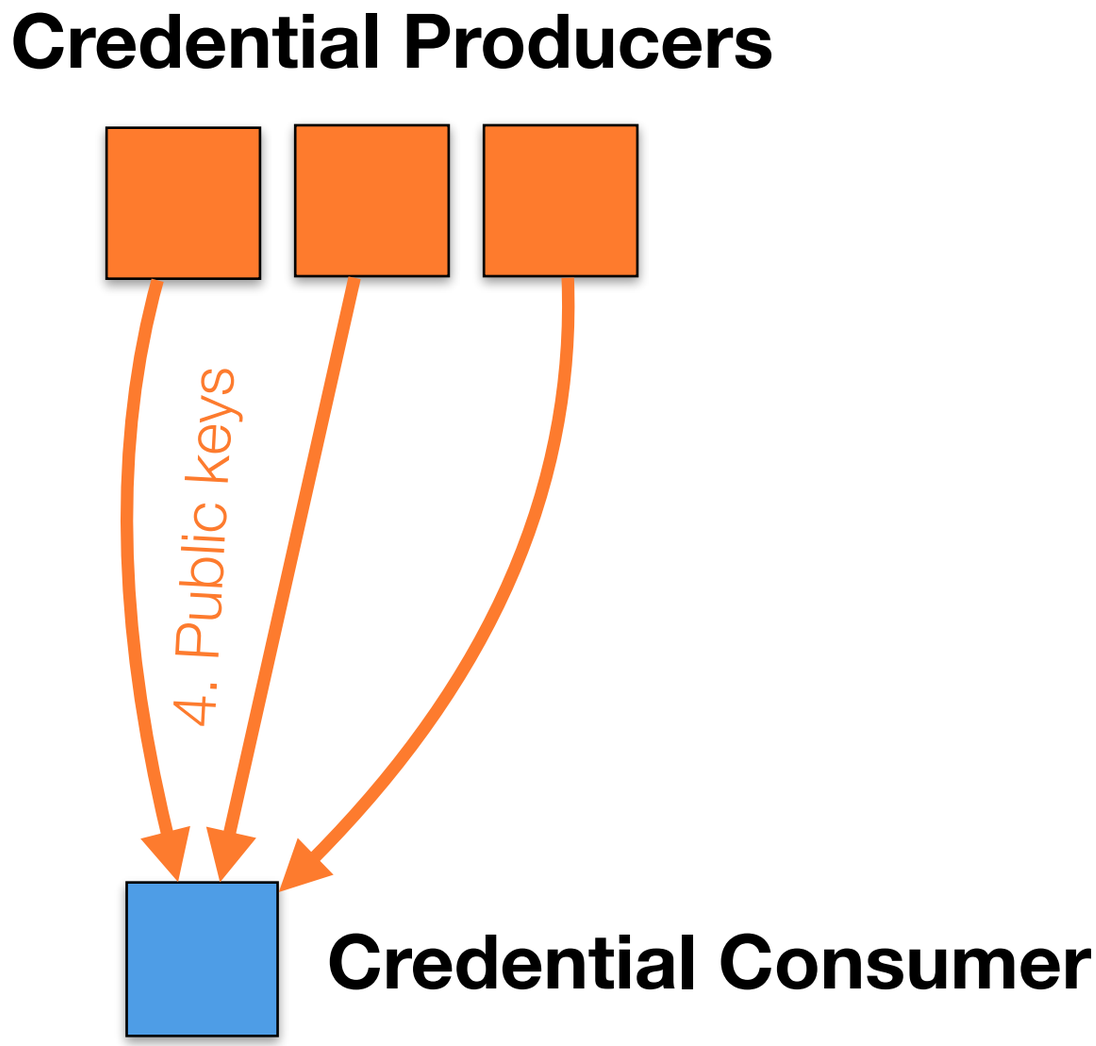
System Architecture

Client



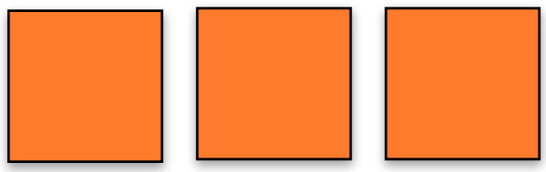
System Architecture

Client

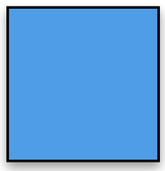


System Architecture

Credential Producers



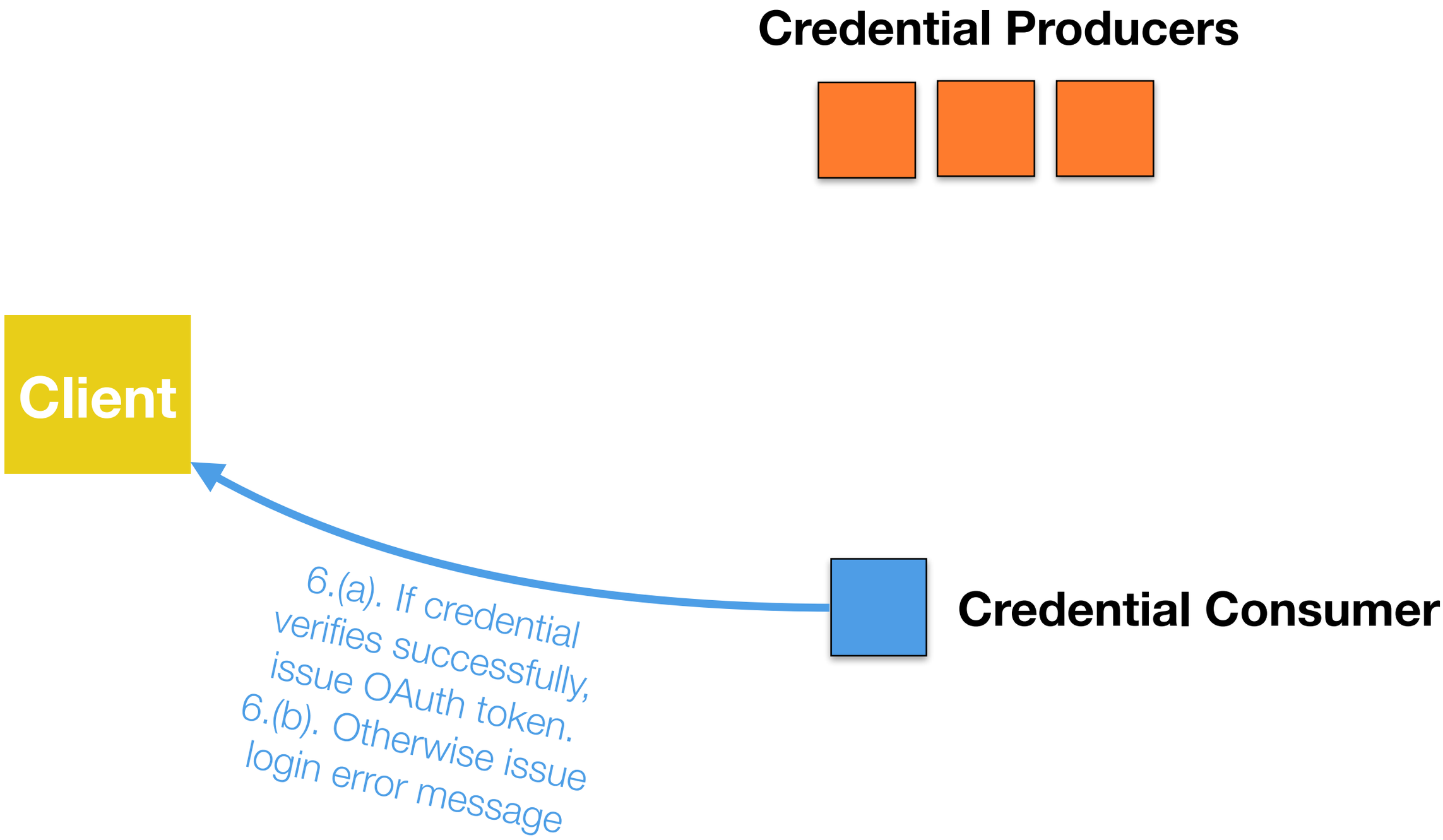
Client



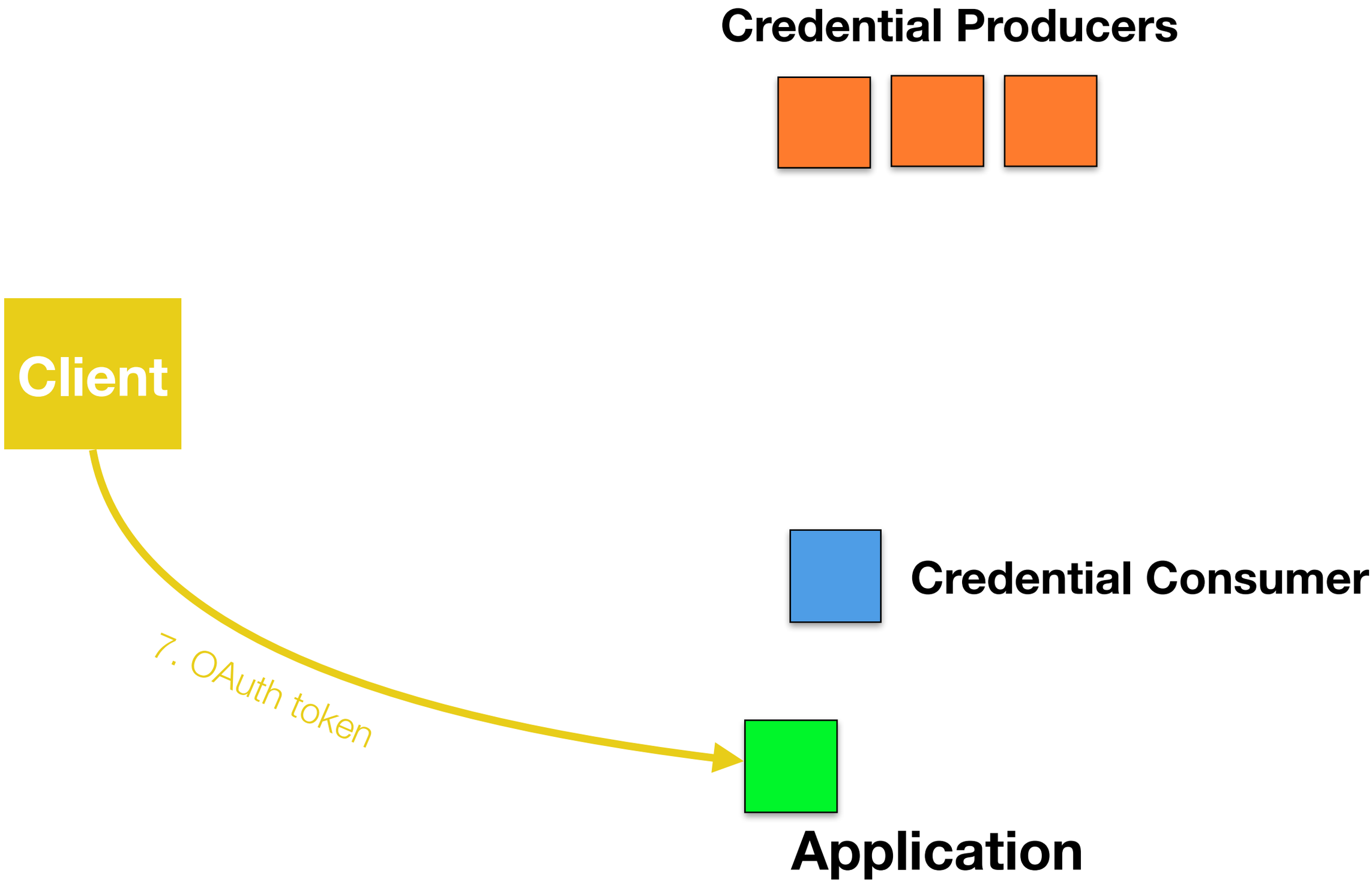
Credential Consumer

5. Consumer verifies client credentials

System Architecture



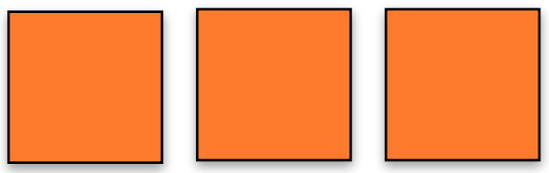
System Architecture

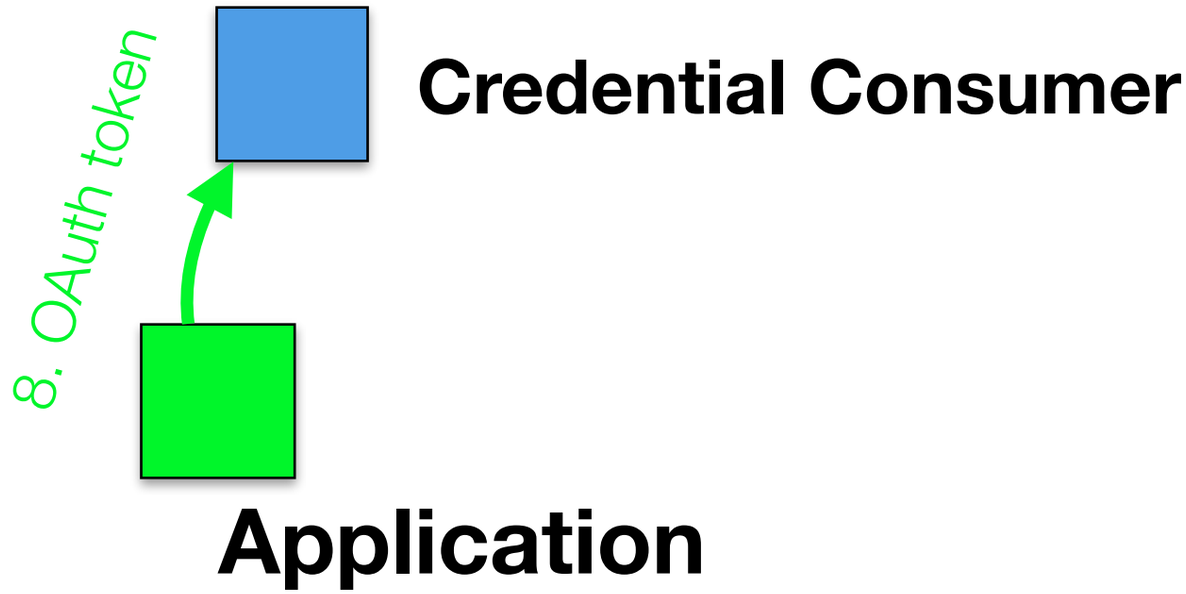


System Architecture

Client

Credential Producers

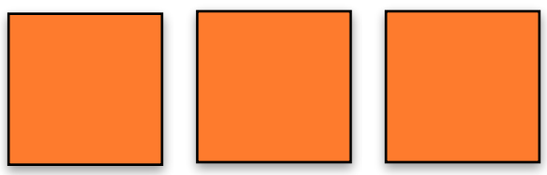




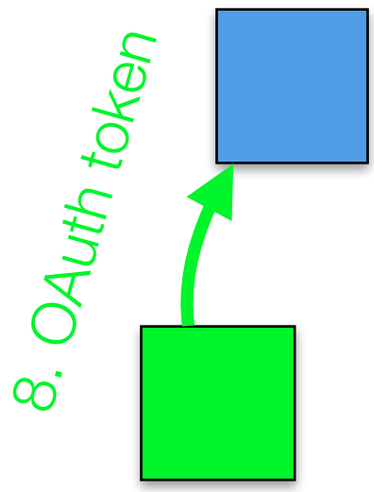
System Architecture

Client

Credential Producers



9. Consumer verifies token



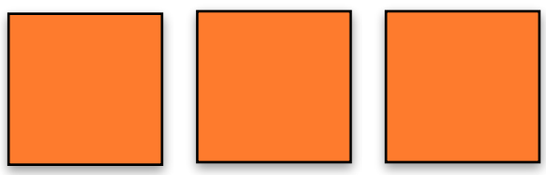
Credential Consumer

Application

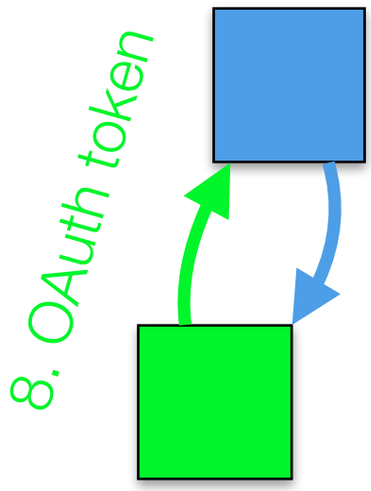
System Architecture

Client

Credential Producers



9. Consumer verifies token



Credential Consumer

10. Verification result, pseudonym

Application

System Architecture

Credential Producers

Client has now successfully authenticated to the application

Client

9. Consumer verifies token

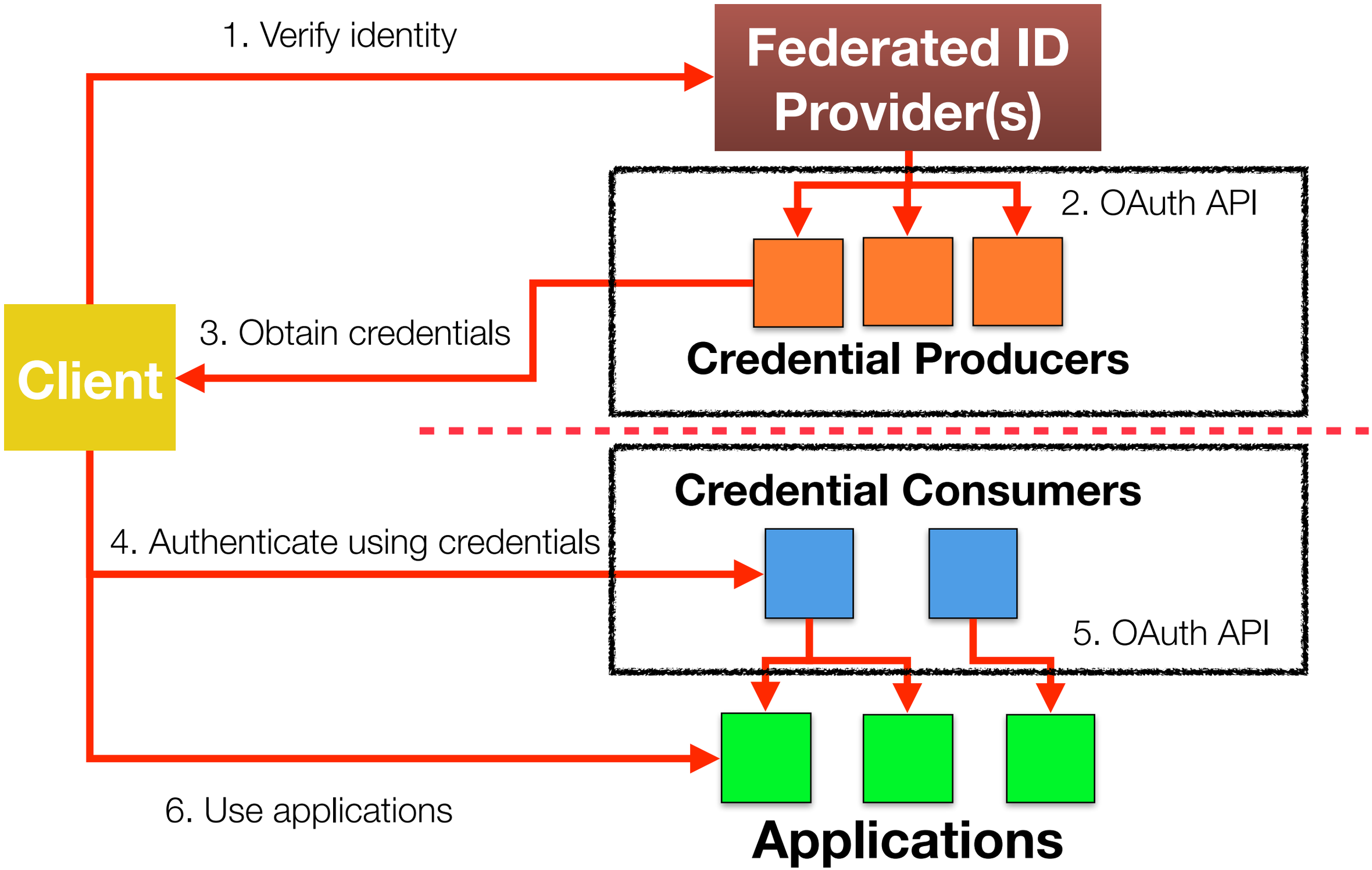
Credential Consumer

10. Verification result, pseudonym

11. Logged in web page for user as pseudonym

Application

System Architecture

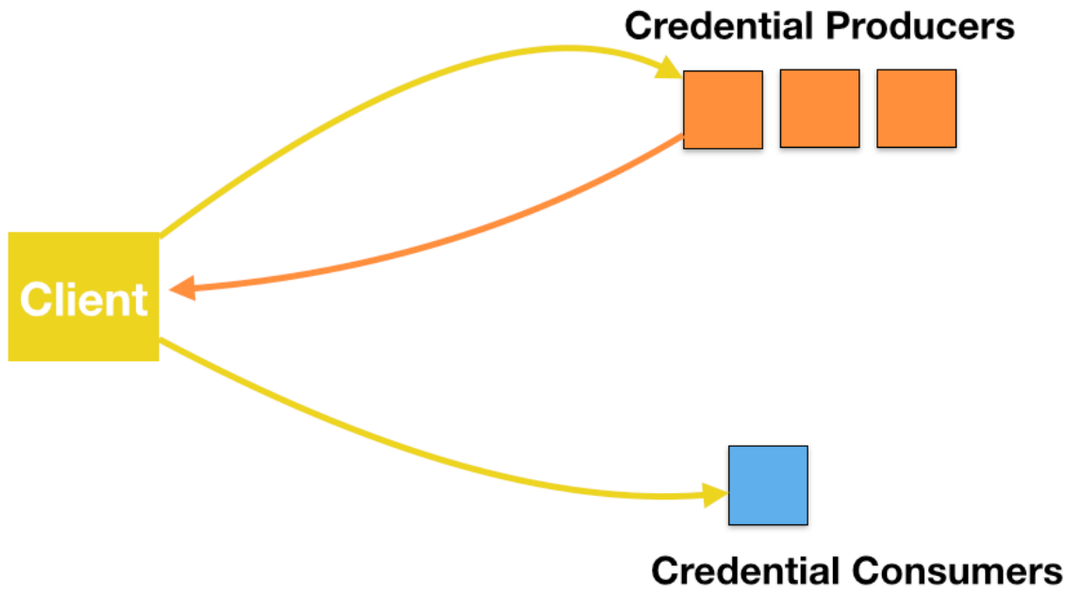


Roadmap

1. Background
2. Work Overview
3. System Architecture
4. Credential Producers and Consumers
   - **At -Large Credentials**
   - Group Credentials
5. Evaluation
6. Conclusions

At-Large Credential Scheme

Can use for privacy preserving Wikipedia login



At-Large Credential Scheme

- Represents that the user has been verified as the owner of *some* federated identity.

- Anonymity set is implicitly the users who have collected a credential

- Accountability through rate limiting: producers restrict number of credentials a federated ID gets within a period of time

- Can include credential attributes, such as “age over 18” or “identity active for at least one year”

Technical Building Block: Blind Signatures

1. Request a signature on a blinded message
2. Signer cannot learn message content
3. Third party can verify unblinded signature

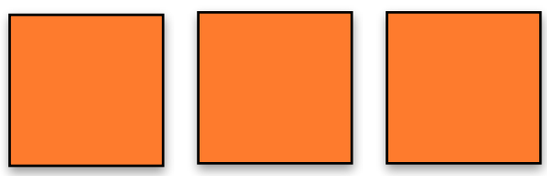
m —> m’ —> m’,s’ —> m,s

Technical Building Block: Blind Signatures

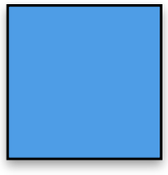
- Client is the requester
- Each credential producer is a signer
- Credential consumers are verifiers

At-Large Credential Scheme

Credential Producers



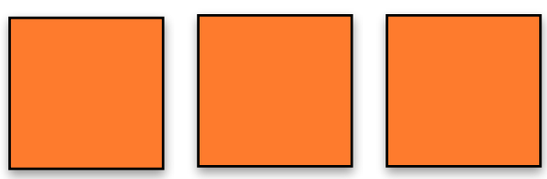
Client



Credential Consumers

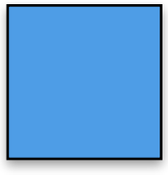
At-Large Credential Scheme

Credential Producers



1. Producers publish initialization info

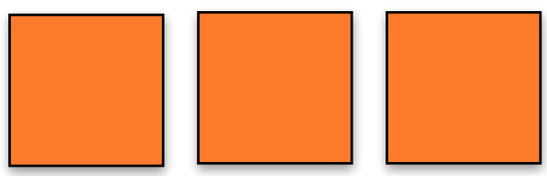
Client



Credential Consumers

At-Large Credential Scheme

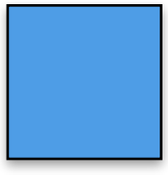
Credential Producers



1. Producers publish initialization info

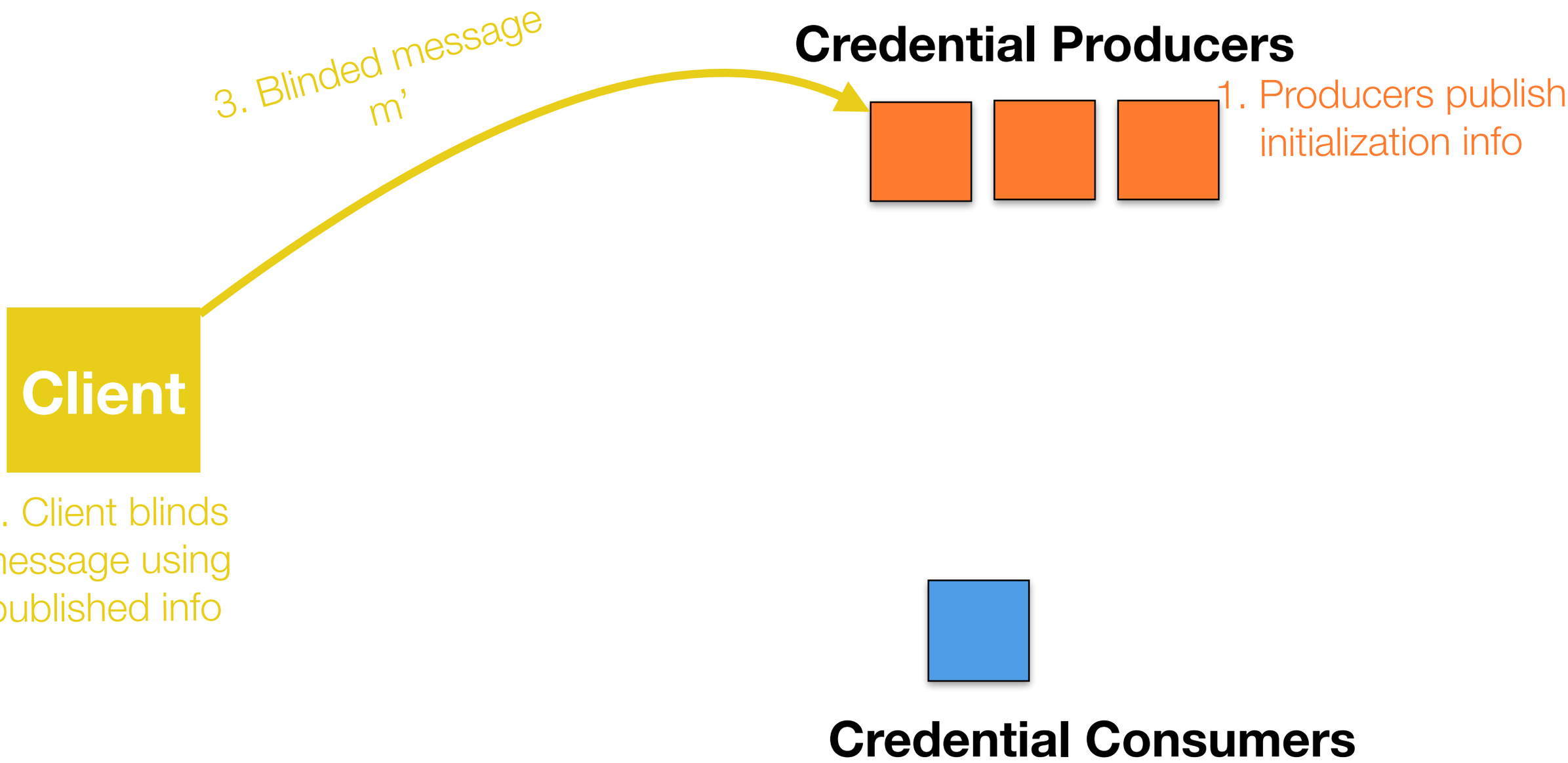
Client

2. Client blinds message using published info

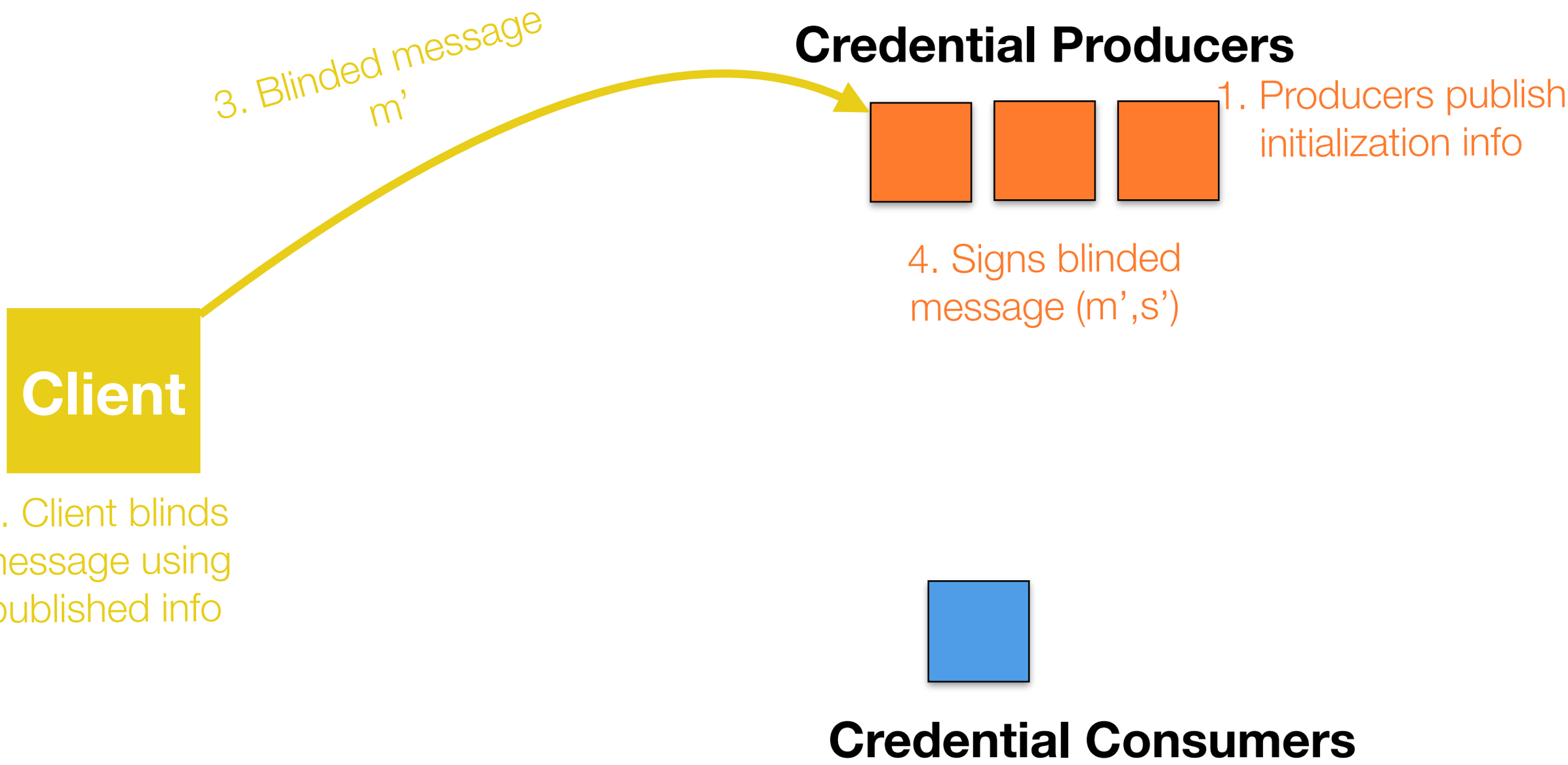


Credential Consumers

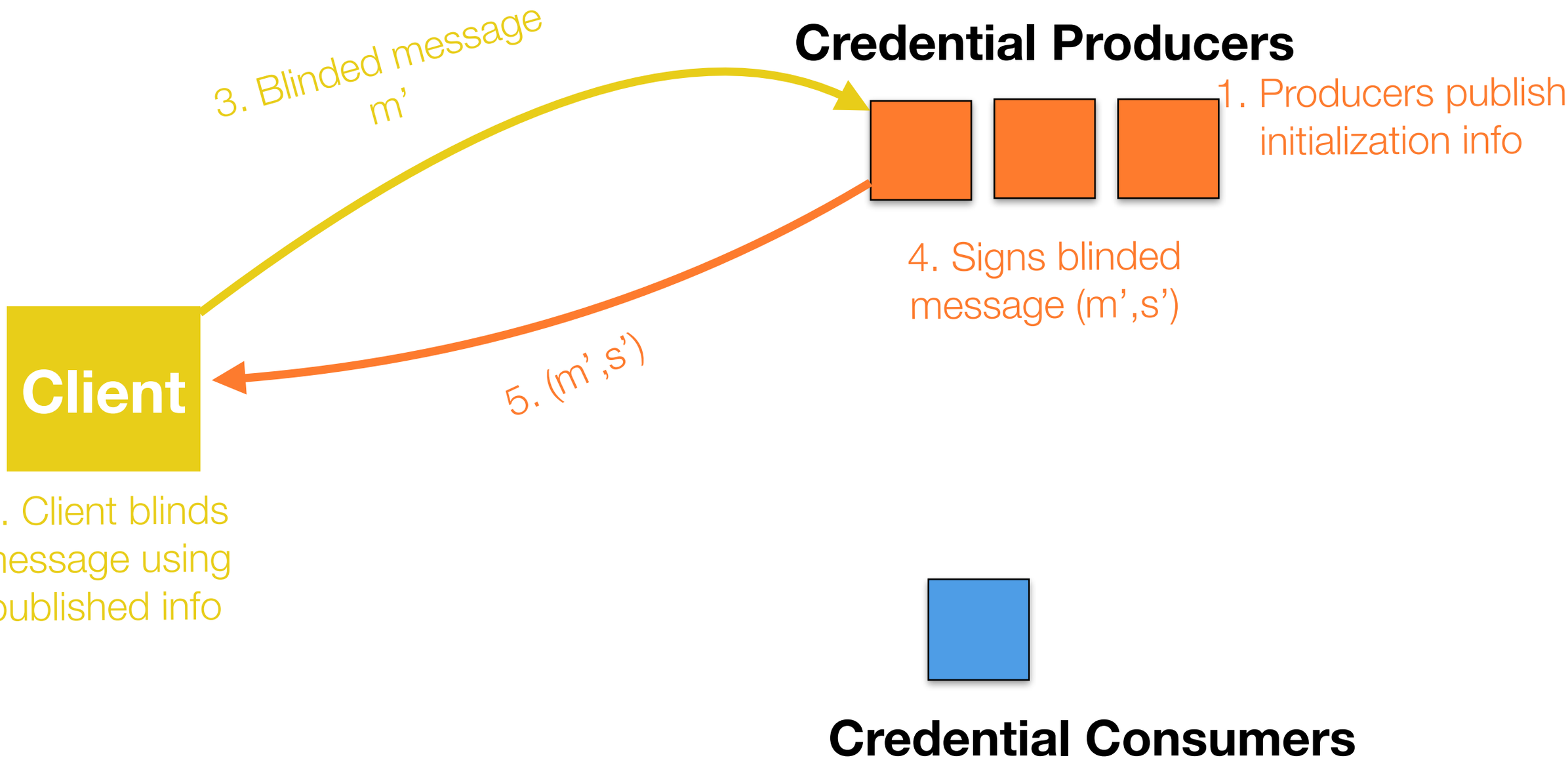
At-Large Credential Scheme



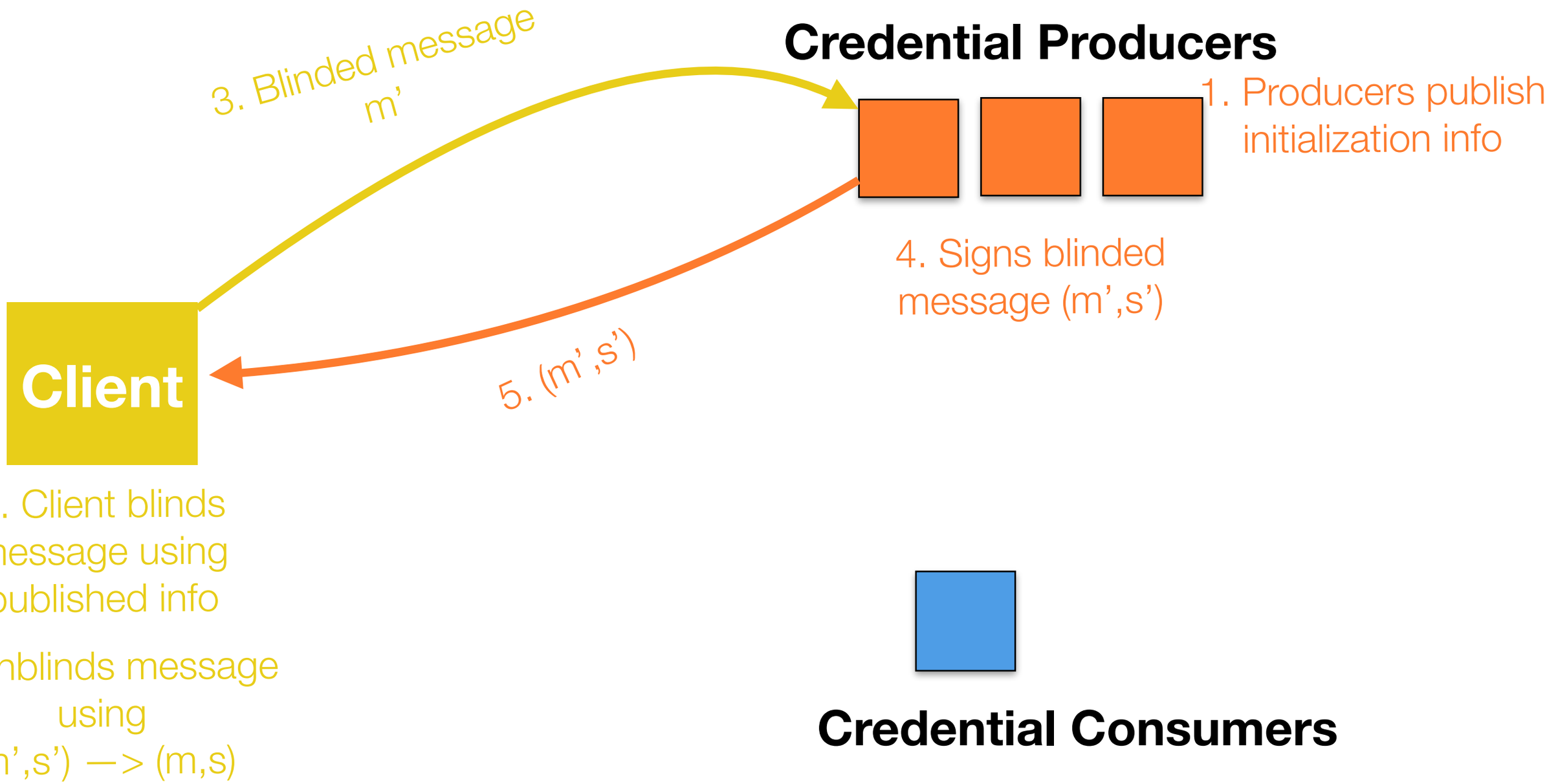
At-Large Credential Scheme



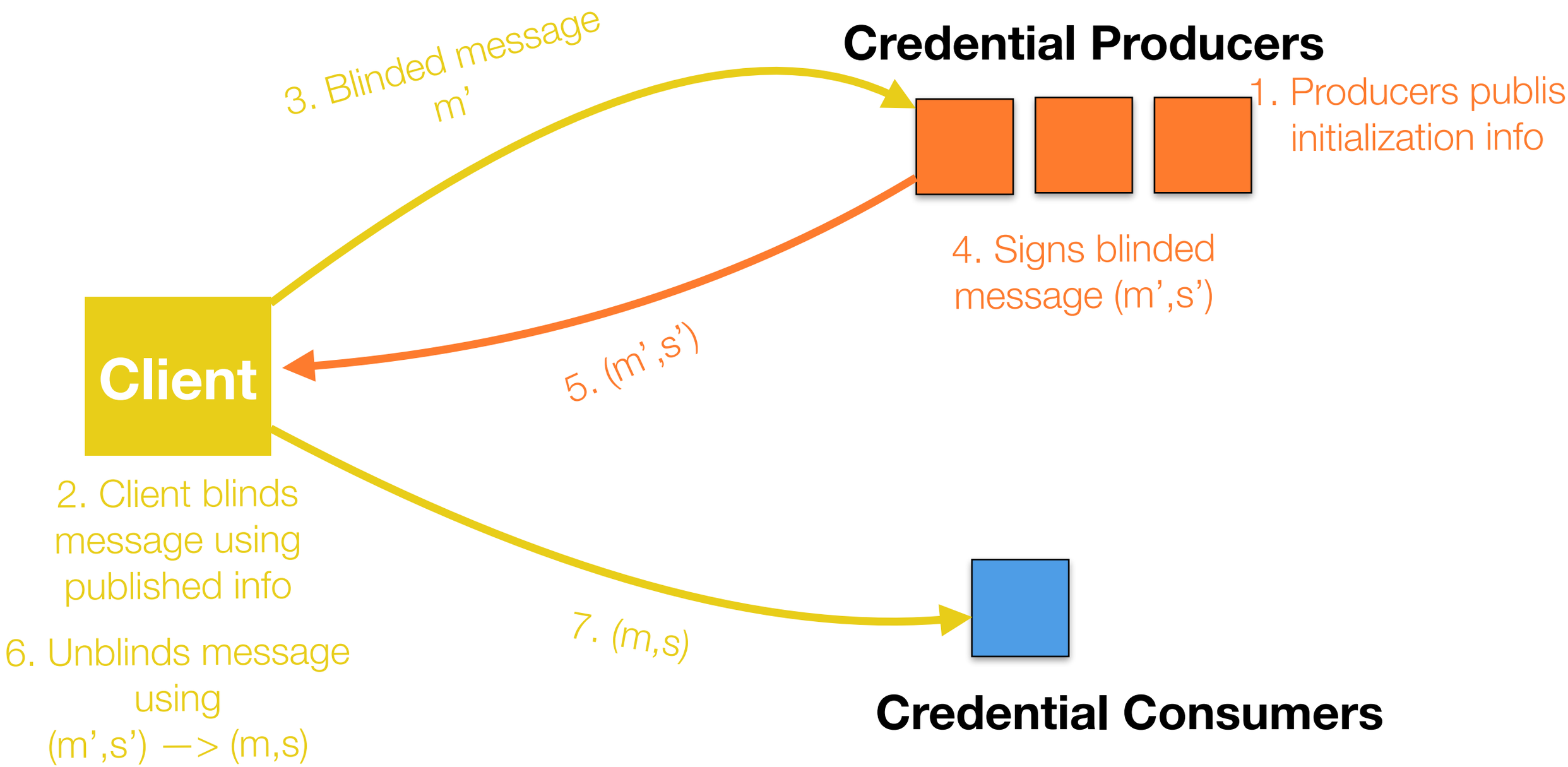
At-Large Credential Scheme



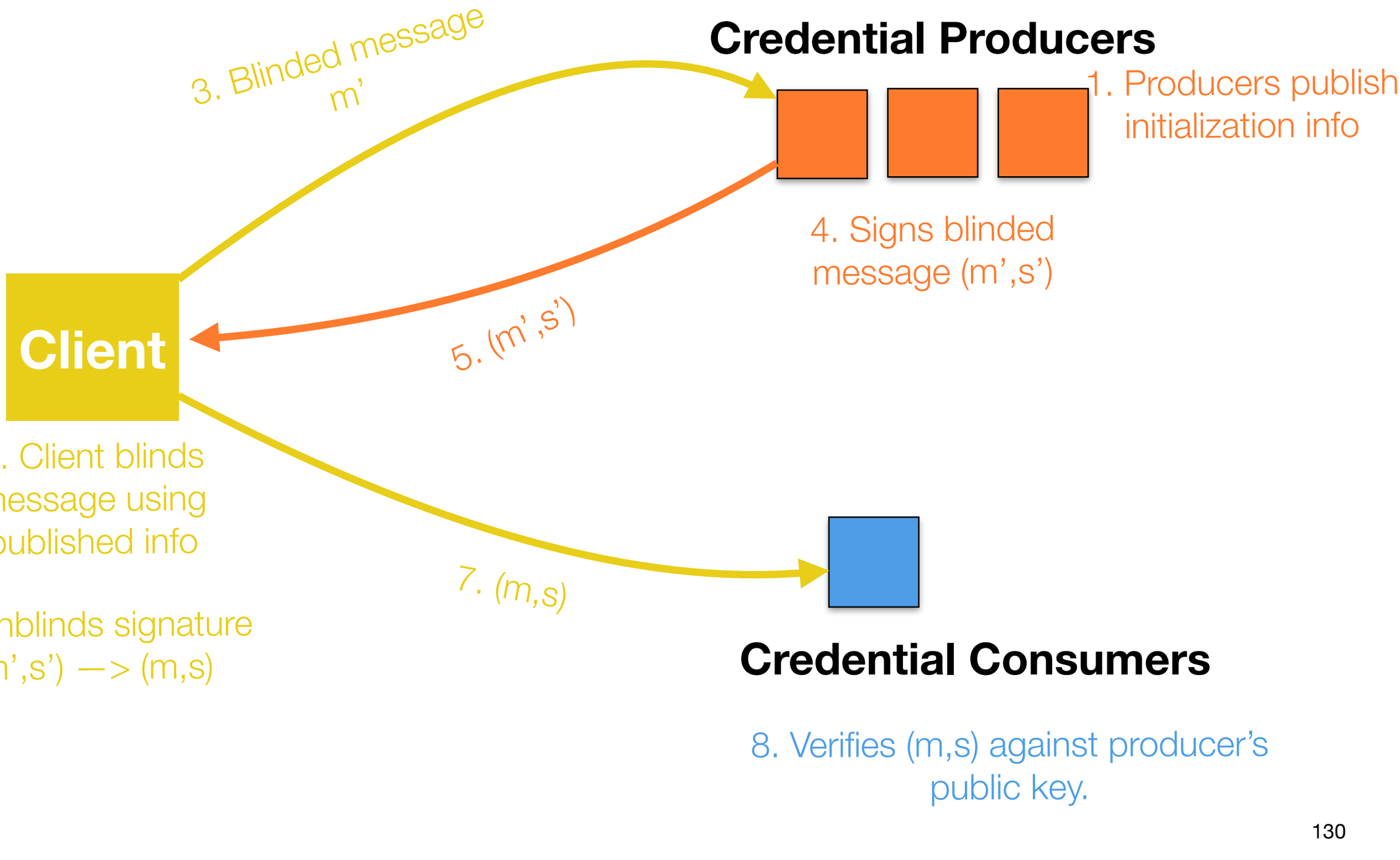
At-Large Credential Scheme



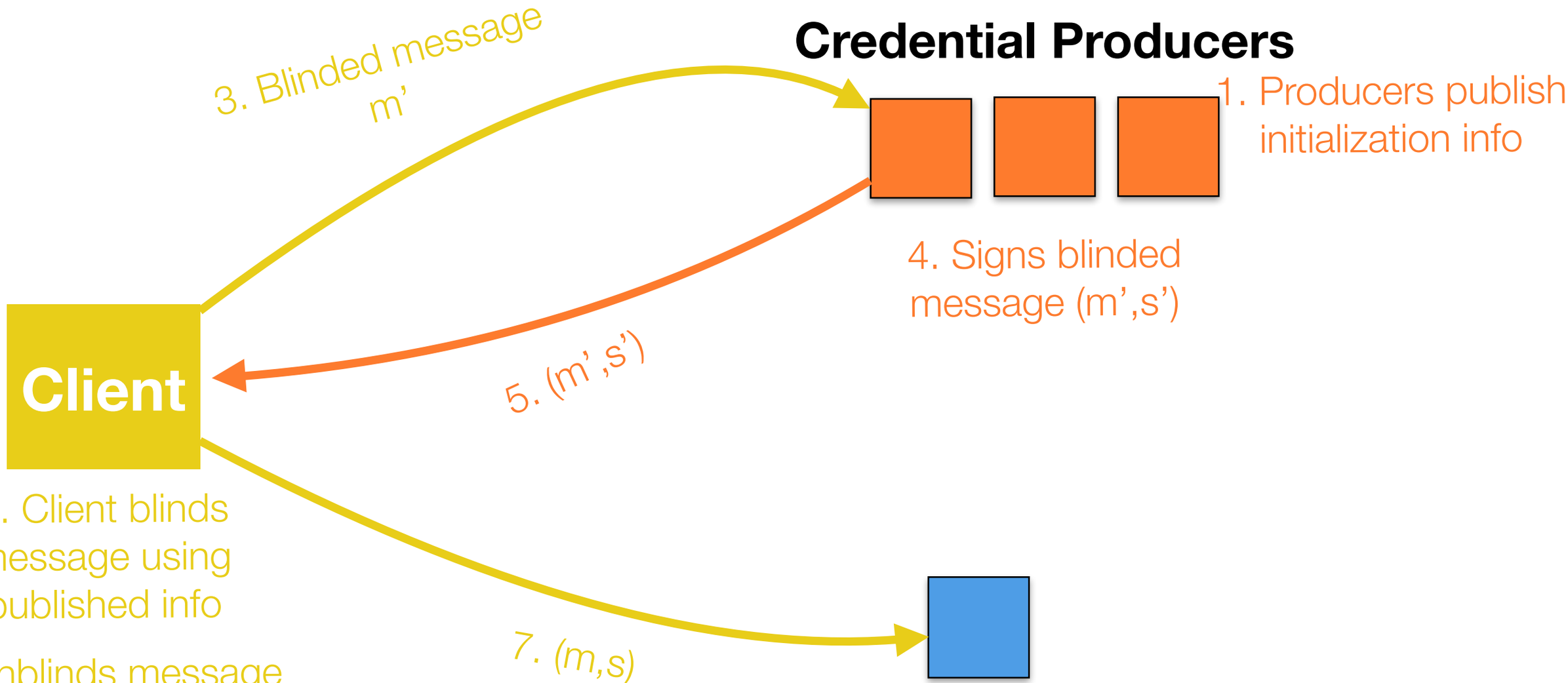
At-Large Credential Scheme



At-Large Credential Scheme



At-Large Credential Scheme



Roadmap

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Group Credential Scheme

Provides k-anonymous authentication

Verifiable whistleblowing/private chat room use cases

Group Credential Scheme

- Allows a client to authenticate explicitly as some member of a larger, well defined set of users (e.g. a Facebook group)

- The group credential scheme provides k-anonymity, the client is anonymous among a set of k people

- Based on linkable ring signatures

Technical Building Block: Linkable Ring Signatures

- Created by member of a group of users

- Third party can verify:
  - ***Some*** member of the group created signature
  - Whether two signatures were created by same signer

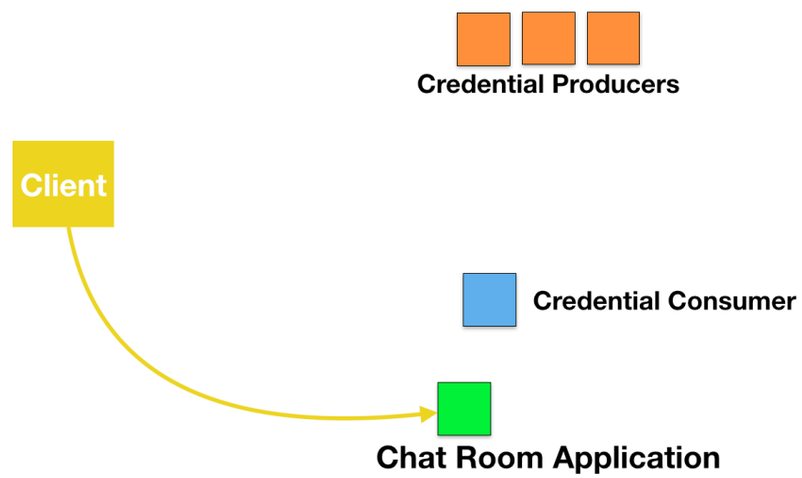
- Third party cannot discover
  - Which specific user created the signature

Technical Building Block: Linkable Ring Signatures

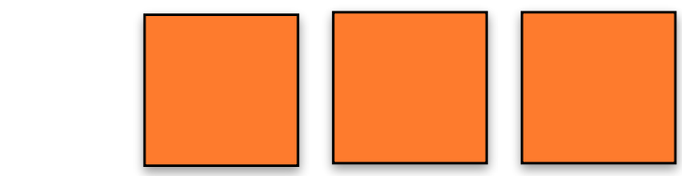
- LRS has *linkage tag*
  - If a client generates two LRSs, will have the same linkage tag
  - Means LRSs can be linked across time

- Linkage tag provides *accountability*
  - privacy preserving mapping between fed IDs and pseudonyms

Group Setup

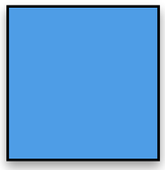

Credential Producers
Client
Credential Consumer
Chat Room Application

Group Credential Scheme

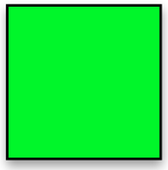


Credential Producers

Client

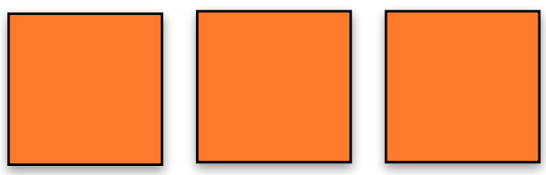


Credential Consumer

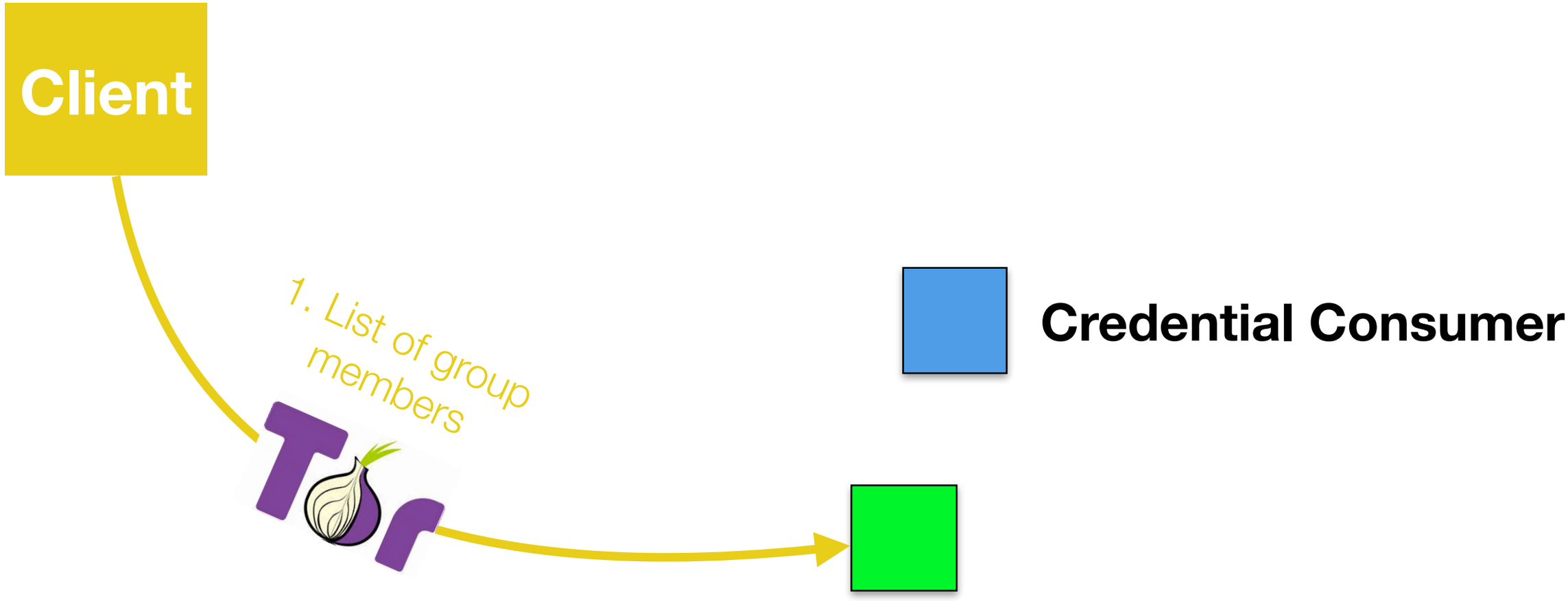


Chat Room Application

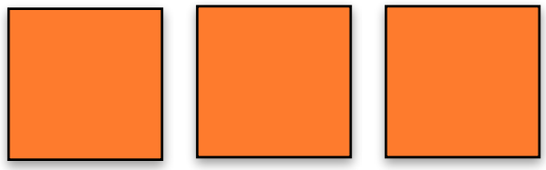
Group Credential Scheme

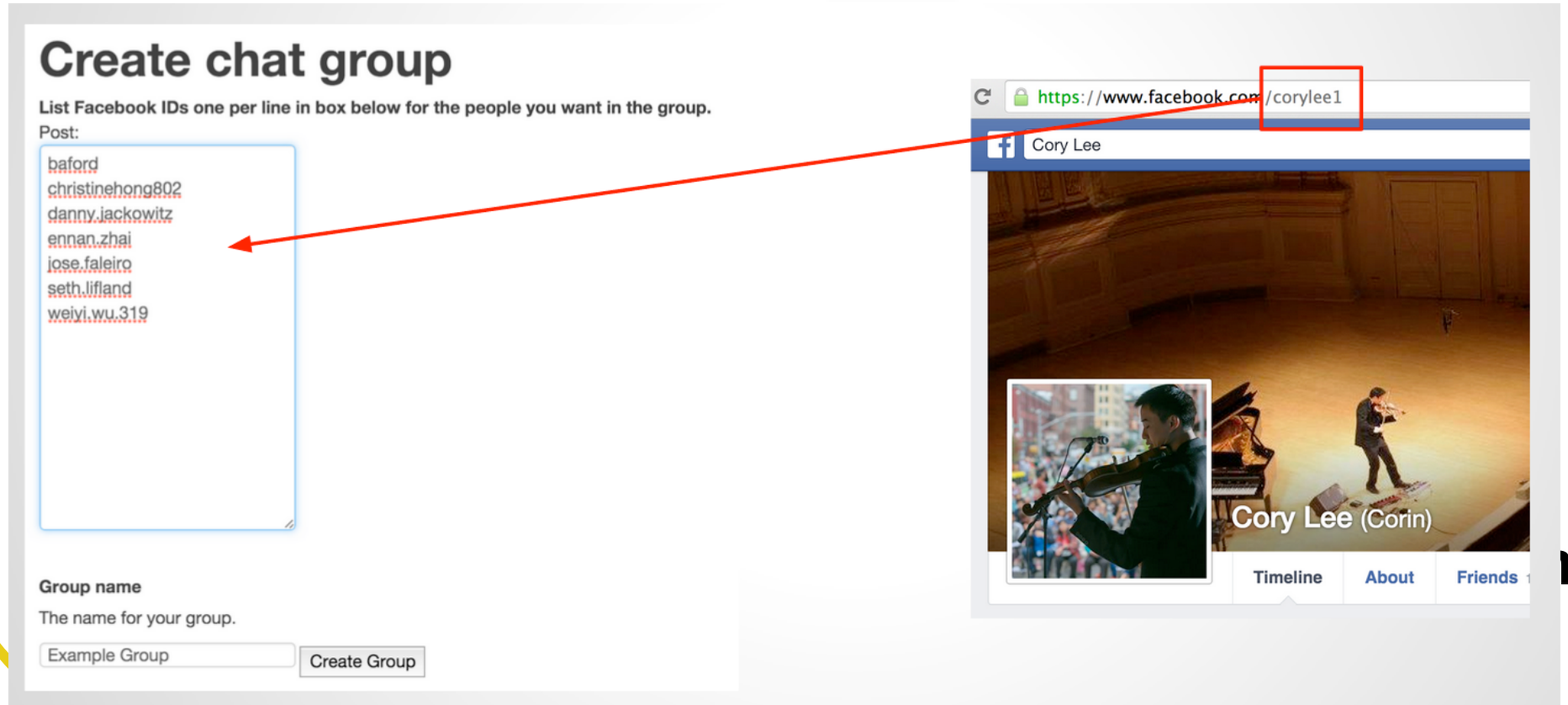


Credential Producers



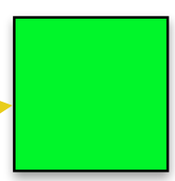
Group Credential Scheme





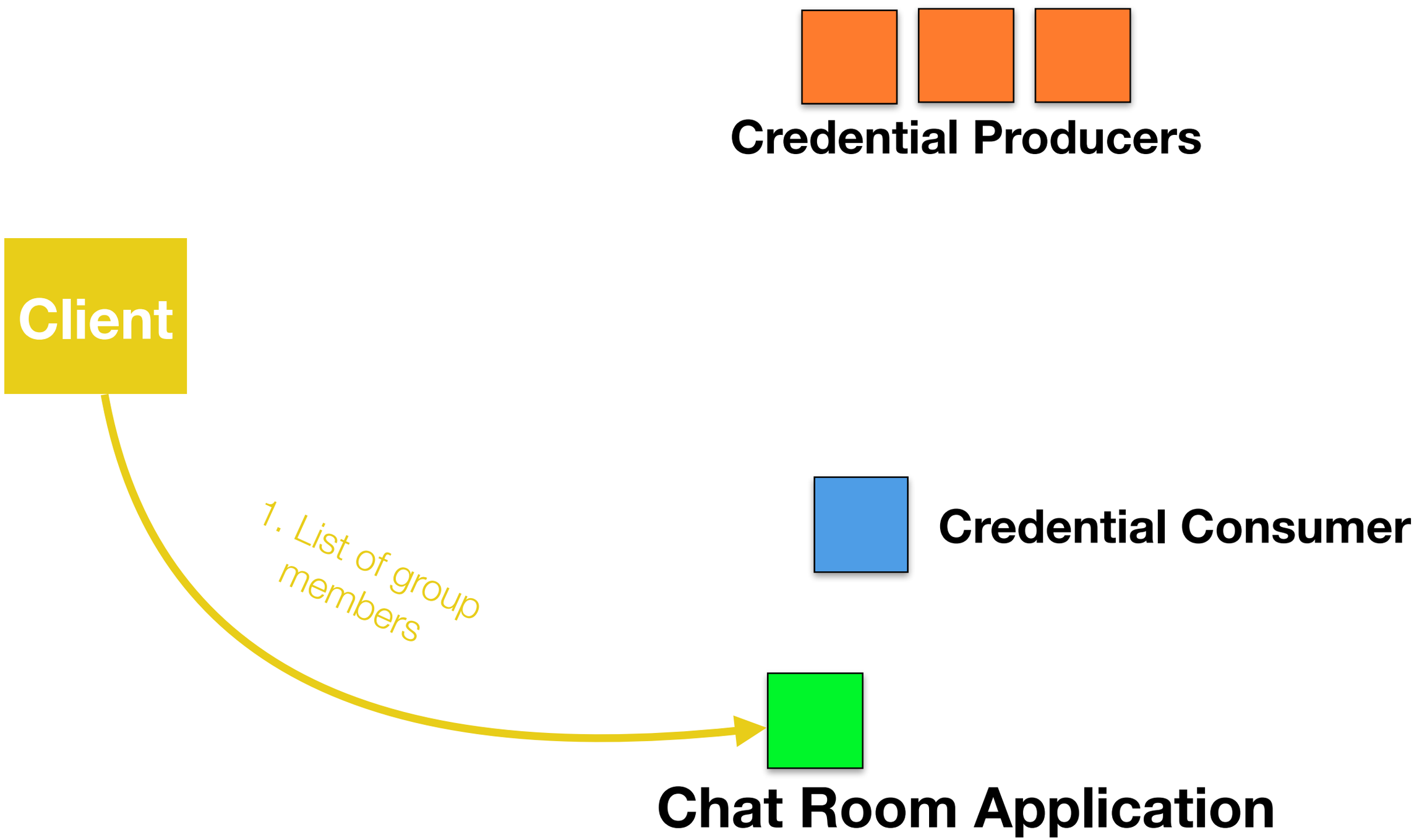
Client

ner

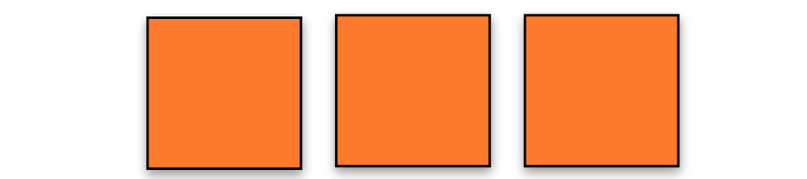


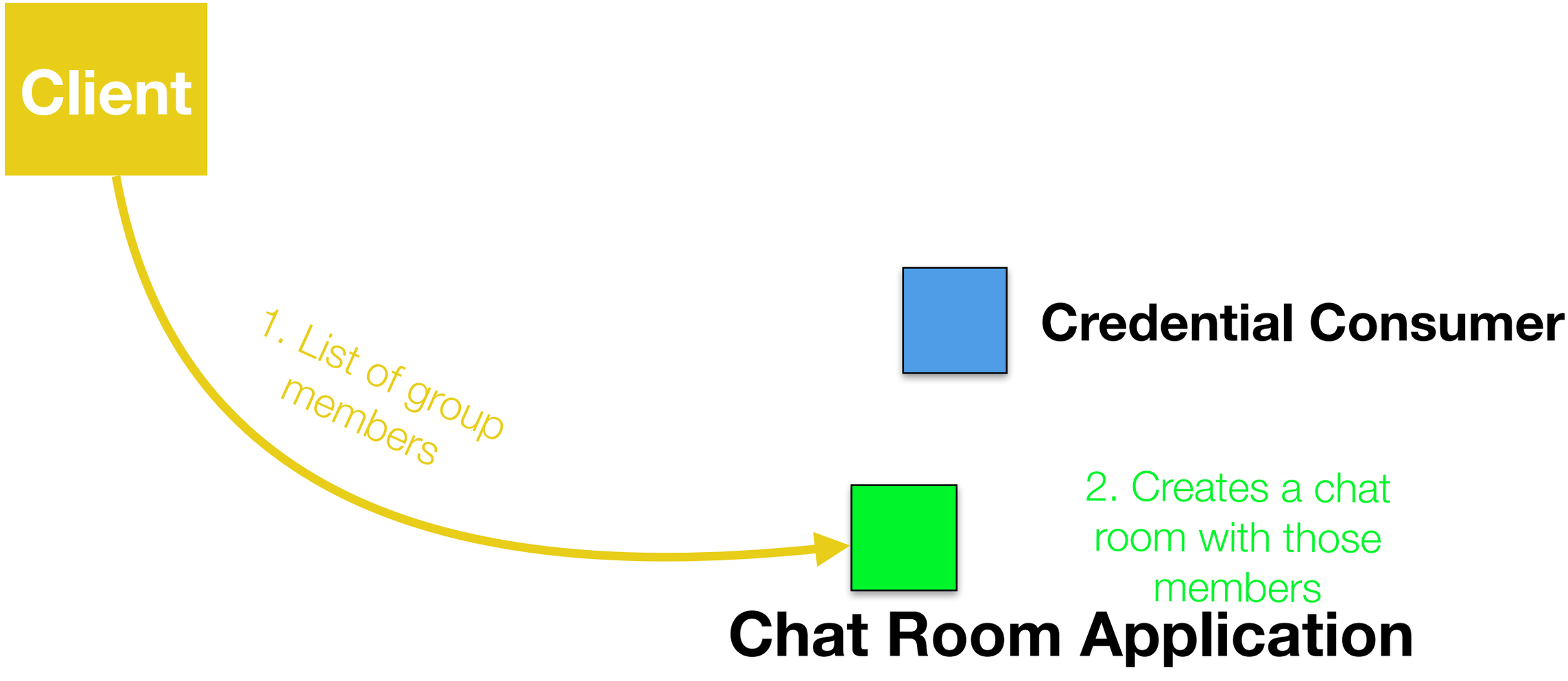
Chat Room Application

Group Credential Scheme



Group Credential Scheme





Group Credential Scheme

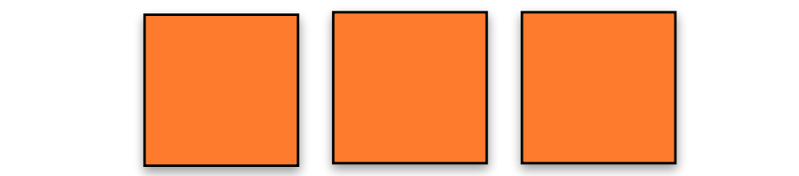
- The client collects their private key shares from at least t of n credential producers

- Client combines shares to give private key, saved in browser extension

- Client collects public keys from credential producers (no authentication)

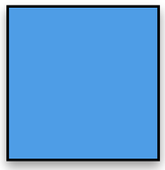
- Credential consumers issue challenge to client, which client signs with LRS and is the authenticated to application

Group Credential Scheme

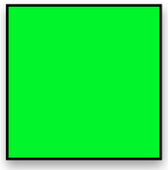


Credential Producers

Client

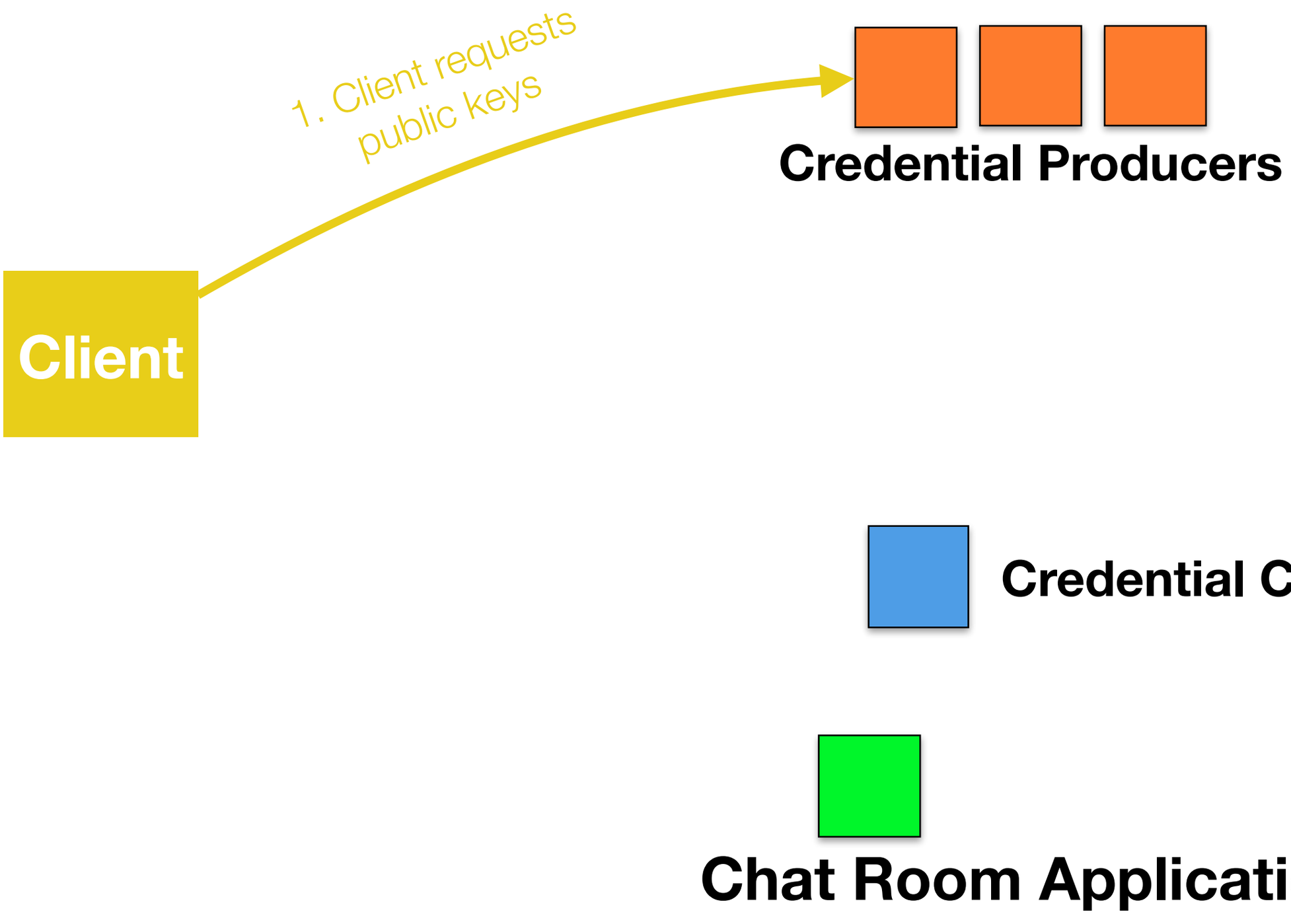


Credential Consumer

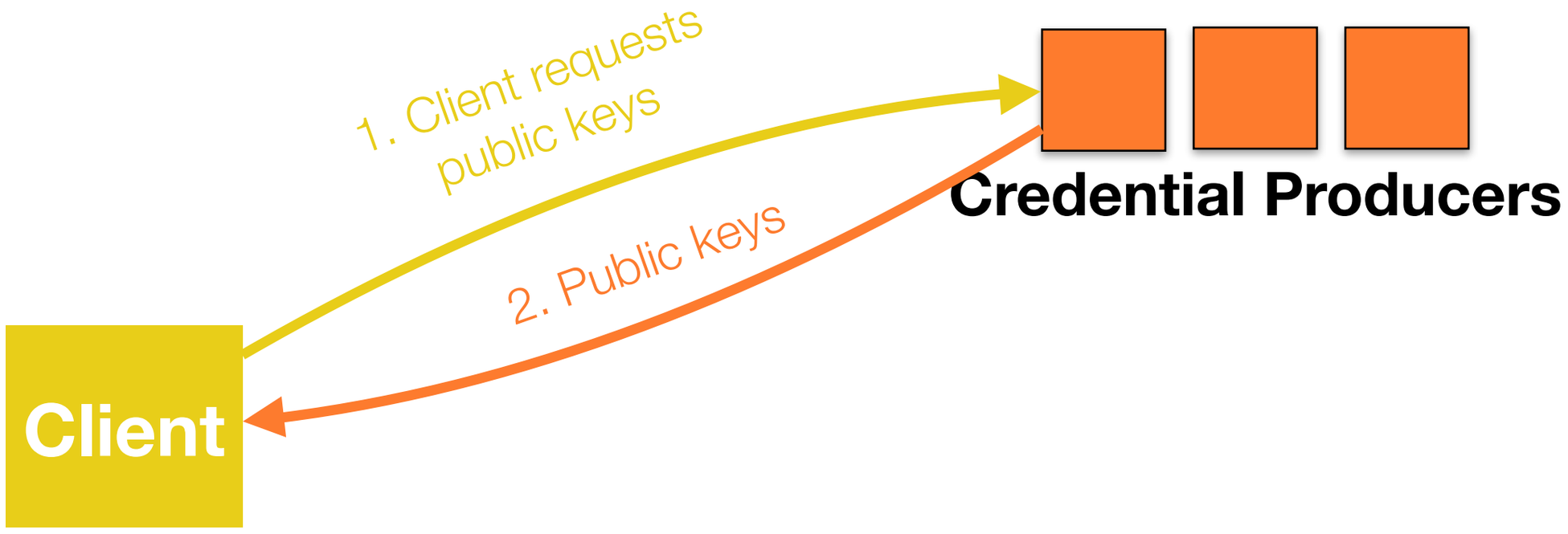


Chat Room Application

Group Credential Scheme



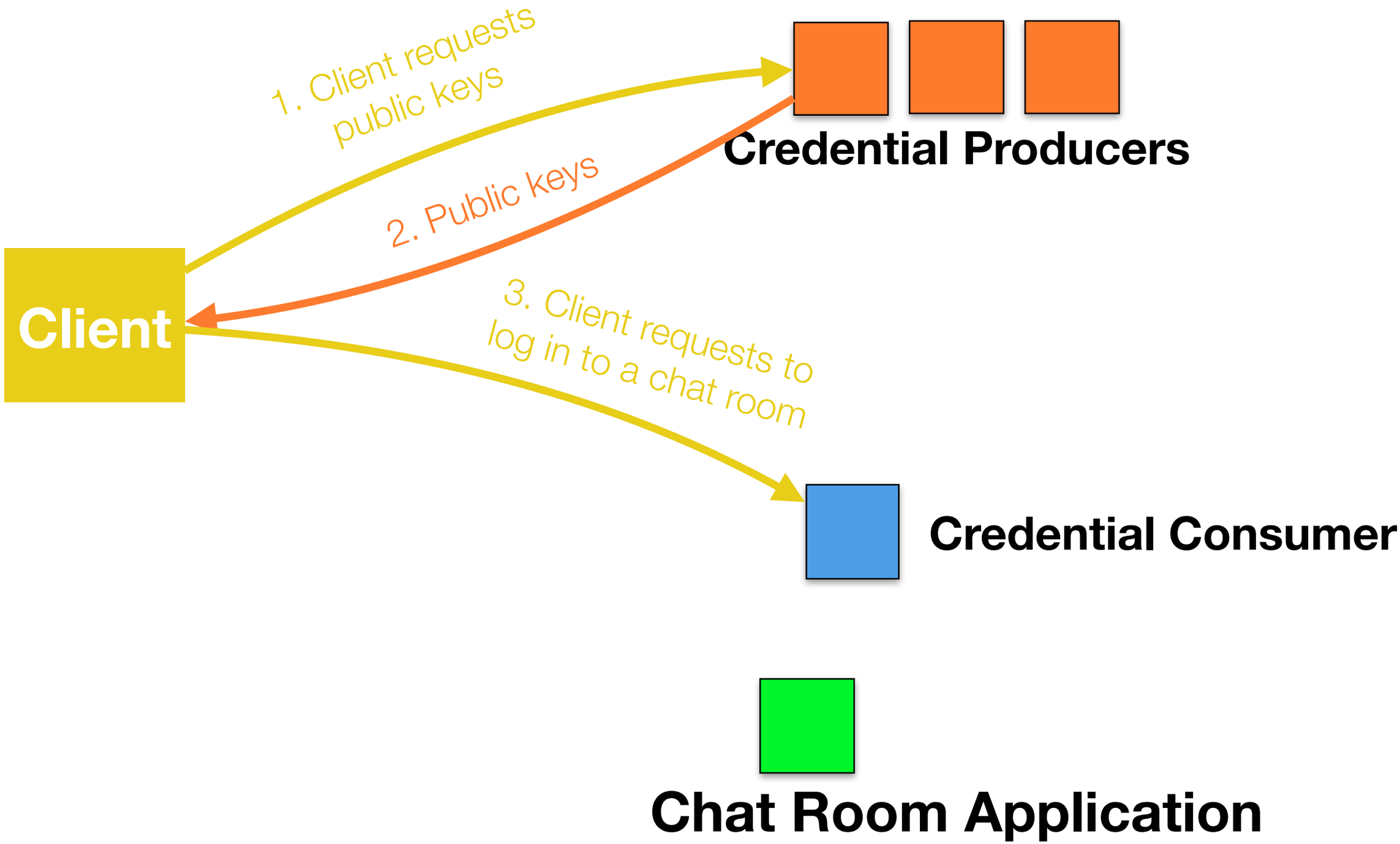
Group Credential Scheme



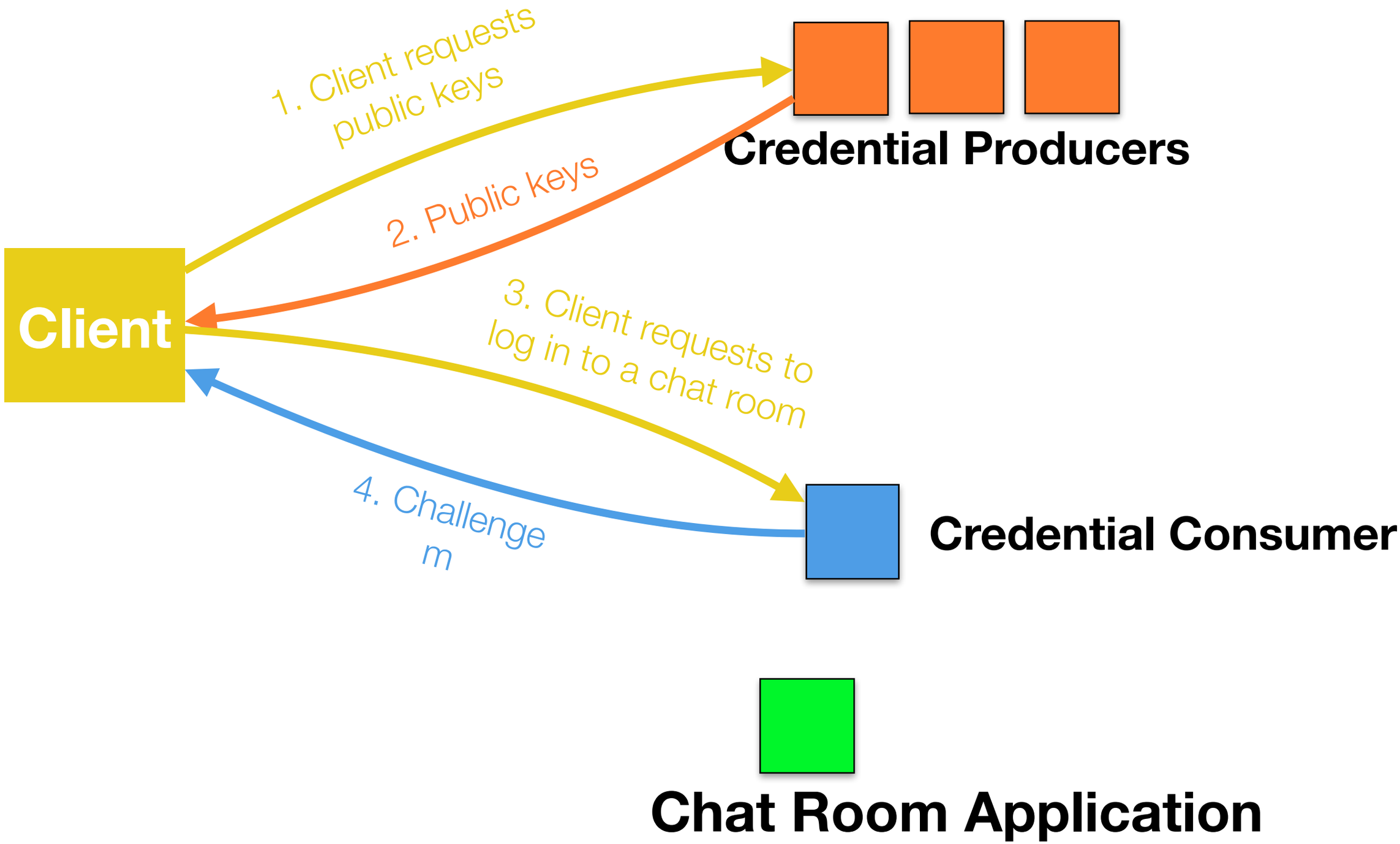
Credential Consumer

Chat Room Application

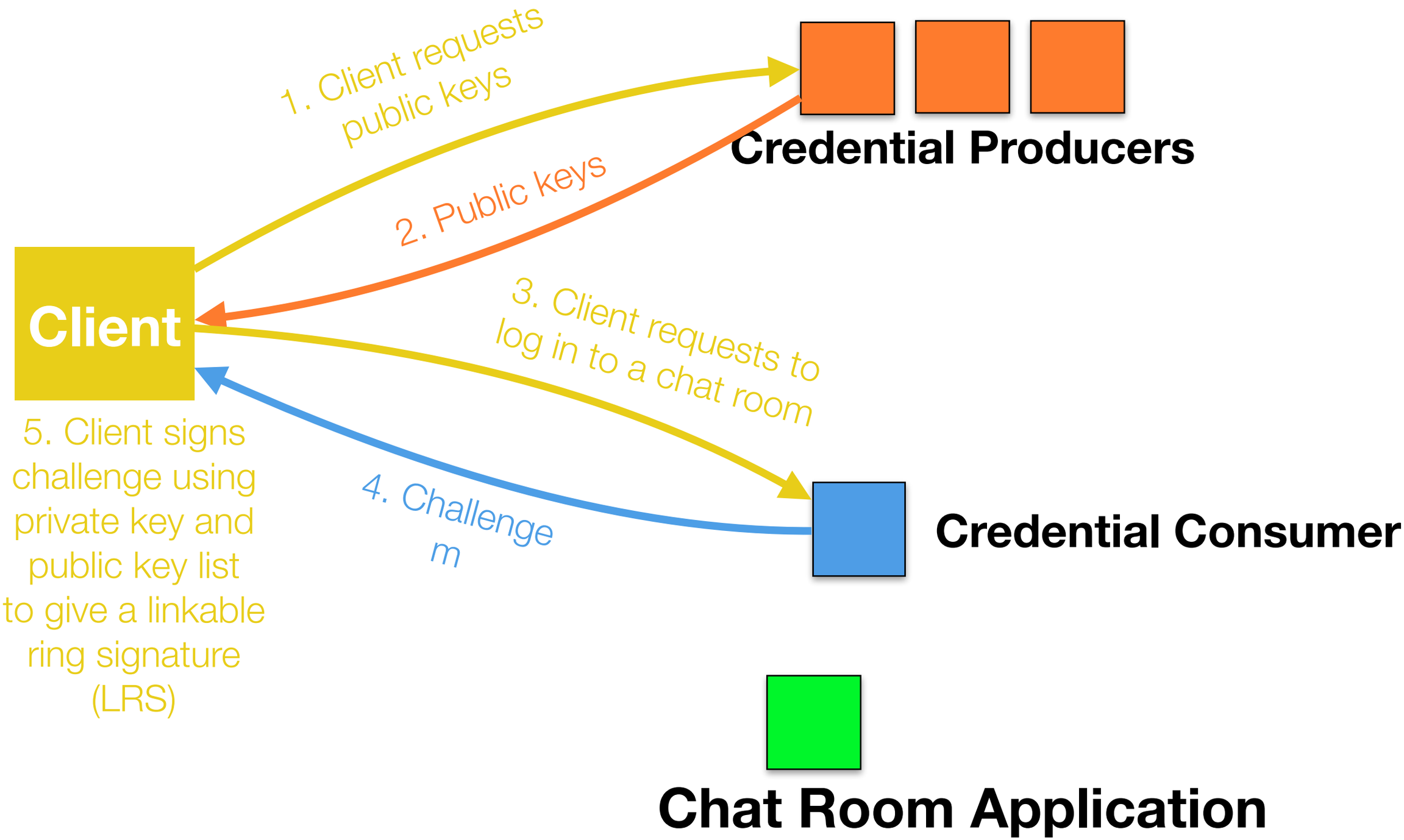
Group Credential Scheme



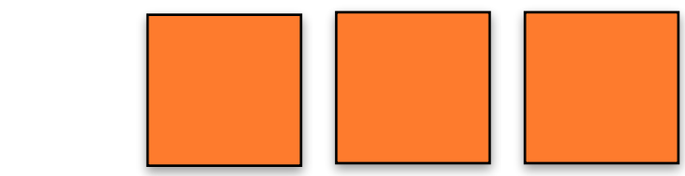
Group Credential Scheme



Group Credential Scheme



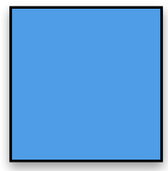
Group Credential Scheme



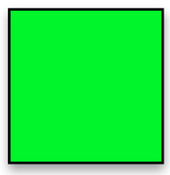
Credential Producers

Client

5. Client signs challenge using private key and public key list to give a linkable ring signature (LRS)

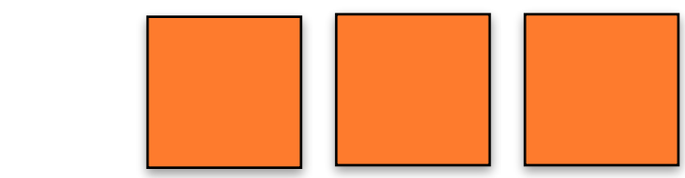


Credential Consumer



Chat Room Application

Group Credential Scheme

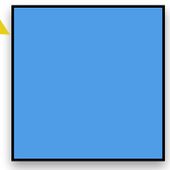


Credential Producers

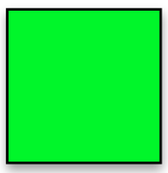
Client

5. Client signs challenge using private key and public key list to give a linkable ring signature (LRS)

6. LRS

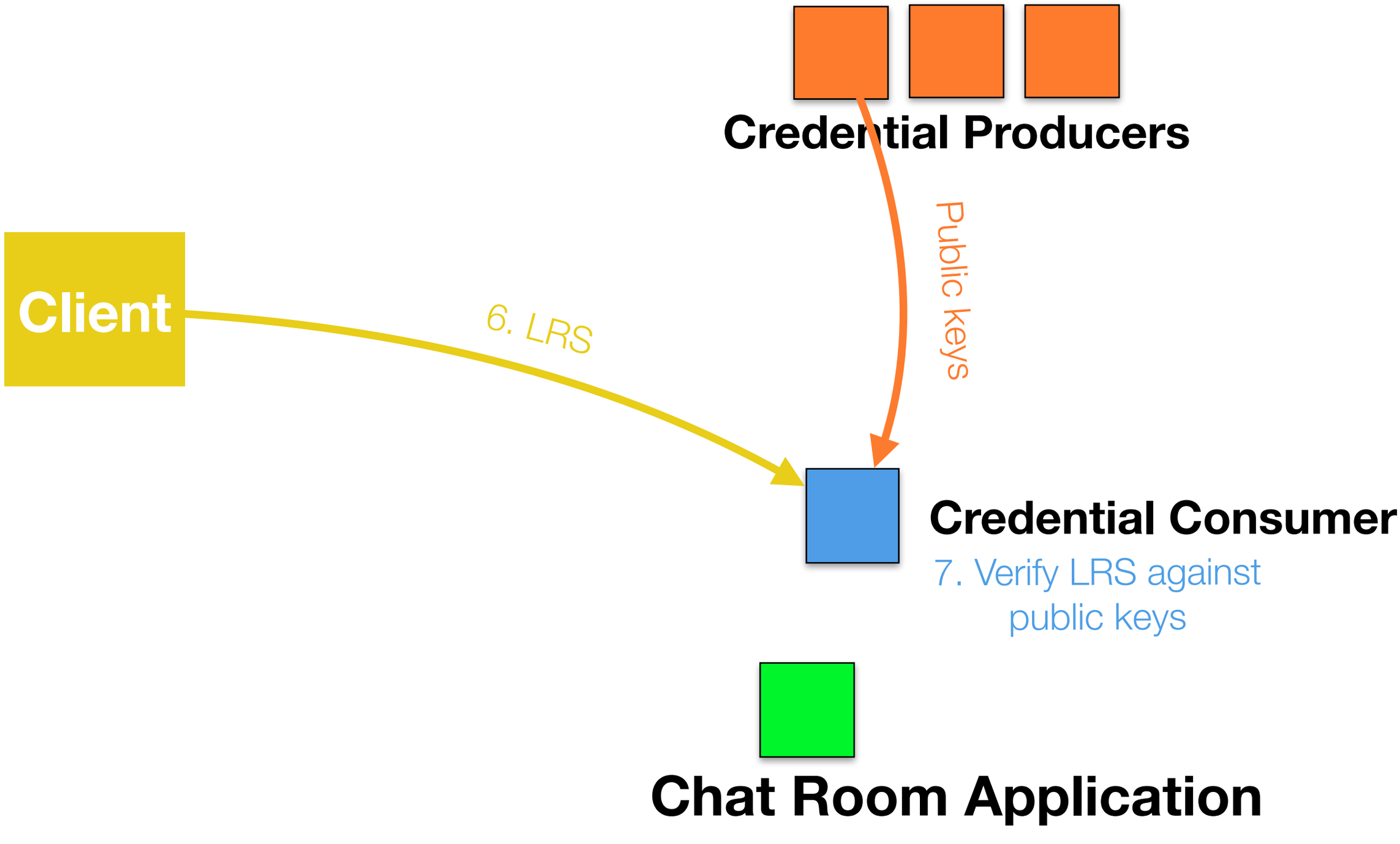


Credential Consumer

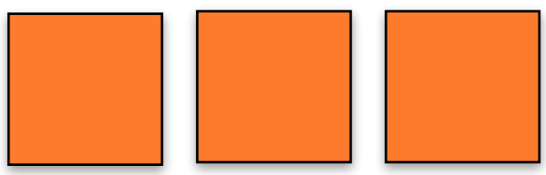


Chat Room Application

Group Credential Scheme



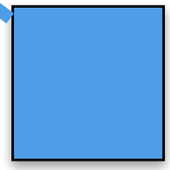
Group Credential Scheme



Credential Producers

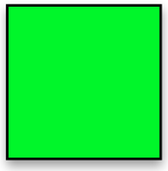
Client

8. OAuth token giving access to chat room



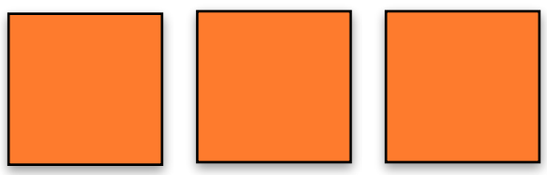
Credential Consumer

7. Verify LRS against public keys



Chat Room Application

Group Credential Scheme

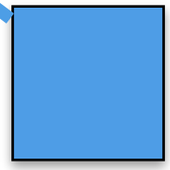


Credential Producers

Client

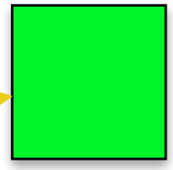
8. OAuth token giving access to chat room

9. OAuth token to access chat room



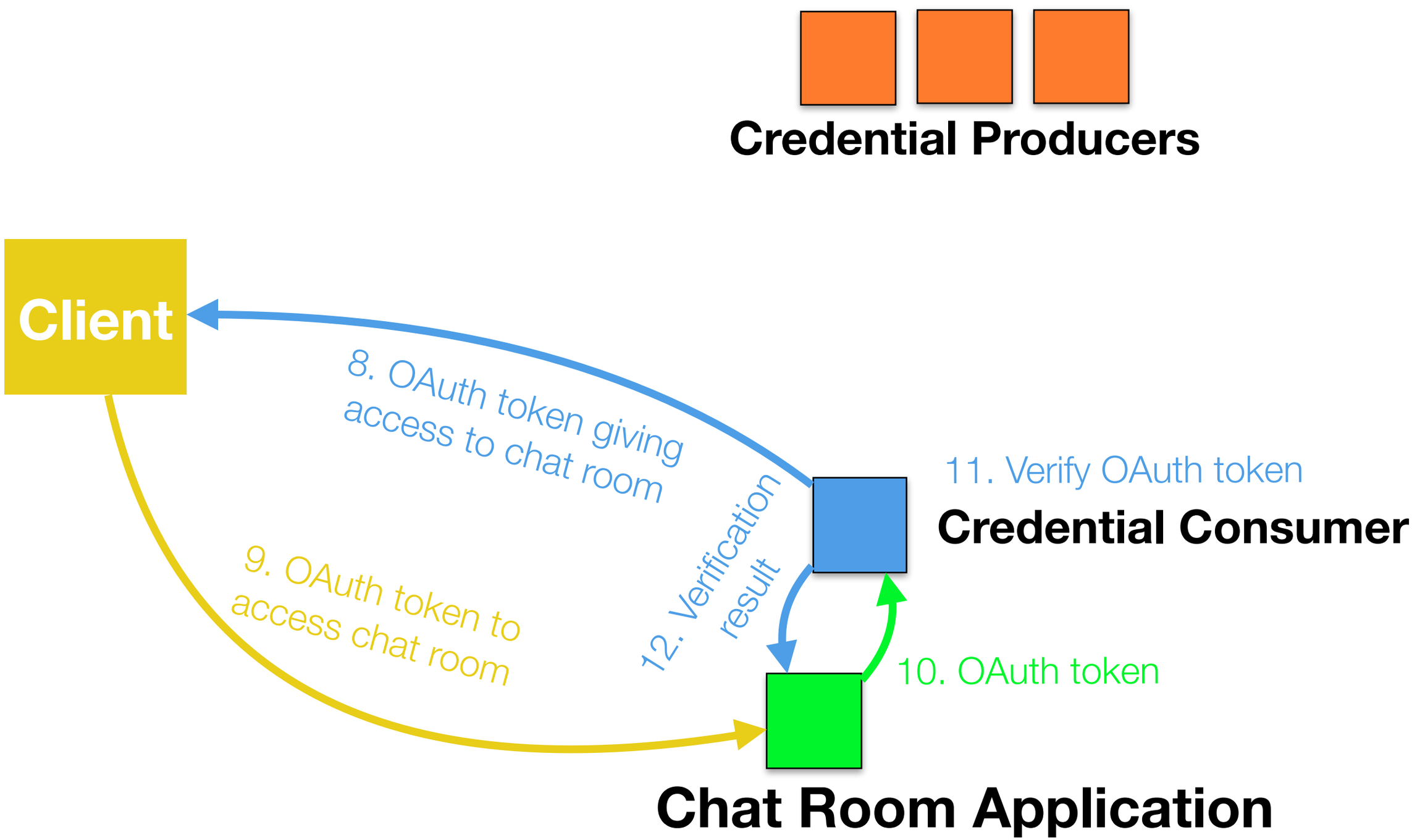
Credential Consumer

7. Verify LRS against public keys

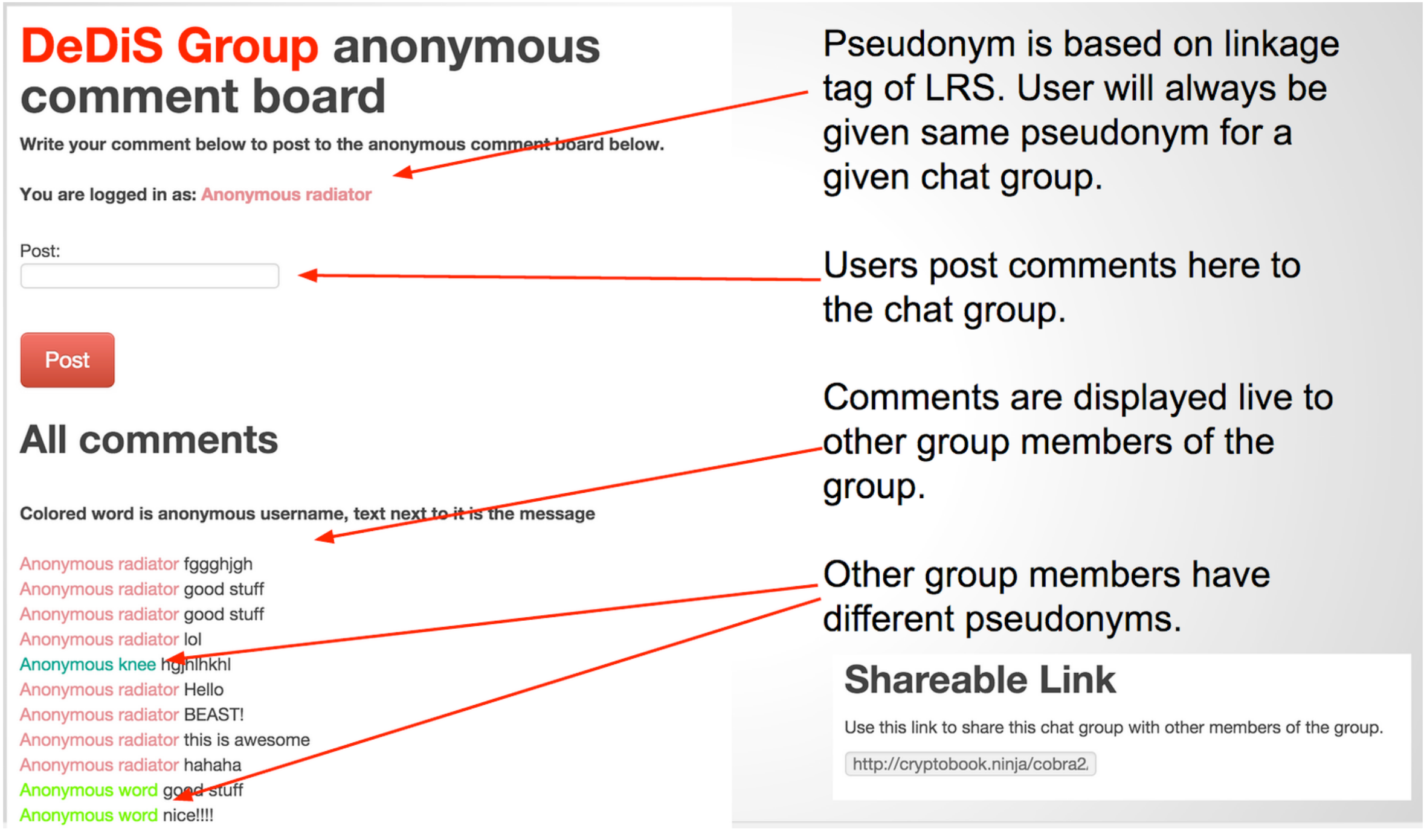


Chat Room Application

Group Credential Scheme



Group Credential Scheme: Chat Room



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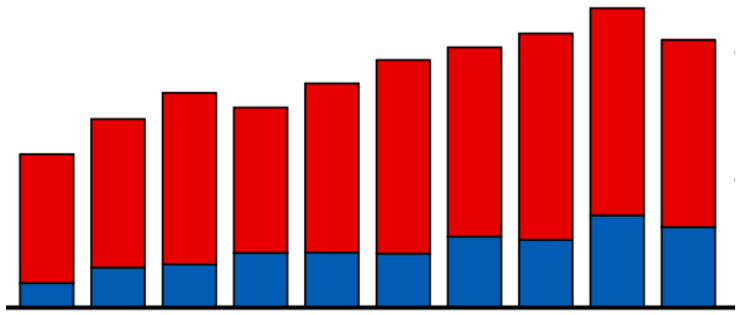
6. Conclusions

Evaluation



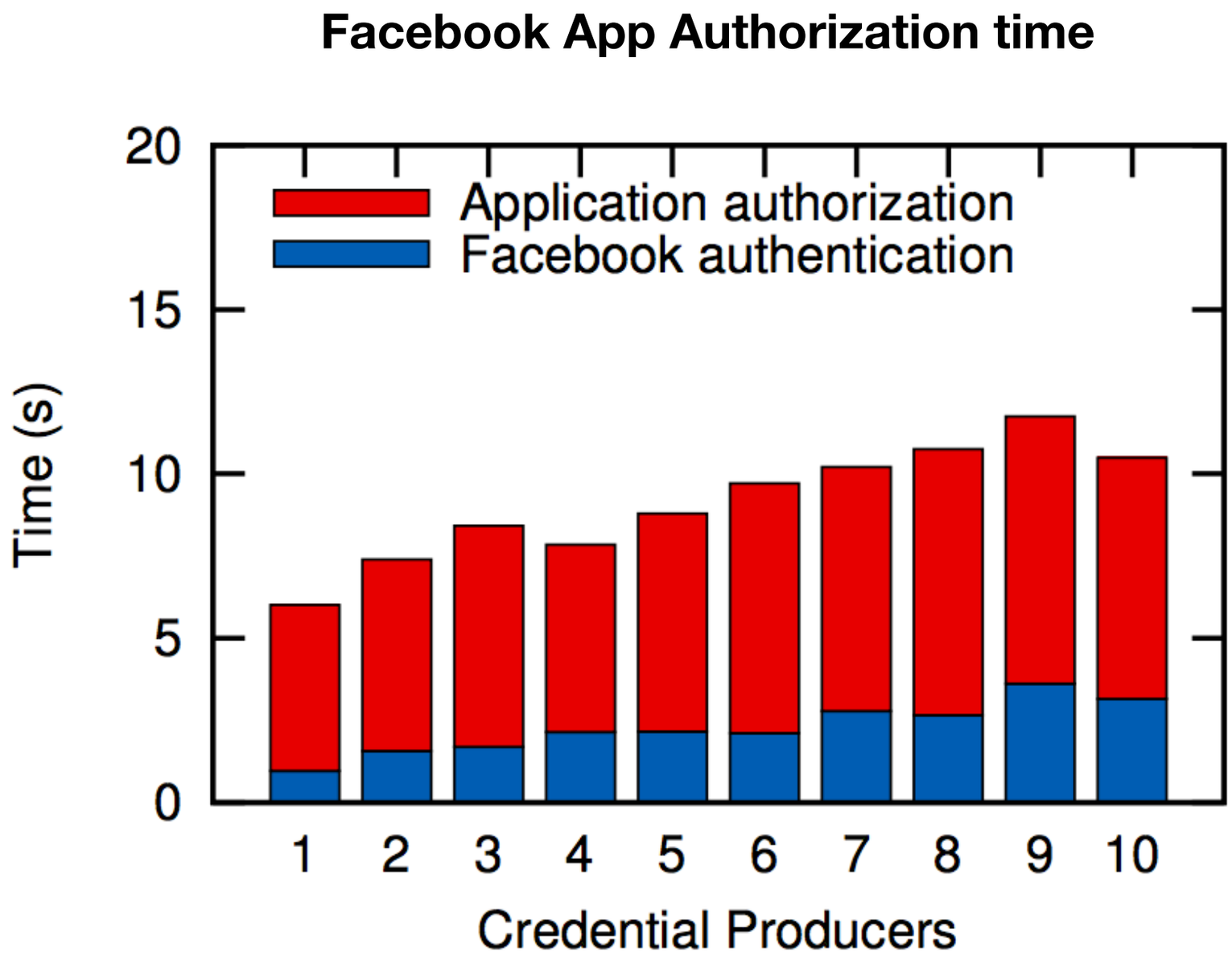
Evaluation: Experimental Setup

- **Clients:** consumer laptops
  - 2.4GHz Intel Core i5 processors
  - 8GB of RAM.

- **Credential producers:** PlanetLab nodes
  - 2.4GHz Intel Xeon processor
  - 4GB of RAM

- **Credential consumers:** commercial shared hosting
  - 2.4GHz Intel Xeon processors
  - 16GB of RAM

Evaluation: Producing Credentials, App Auth.



- Client performs this setup step only once, the first time they use the system

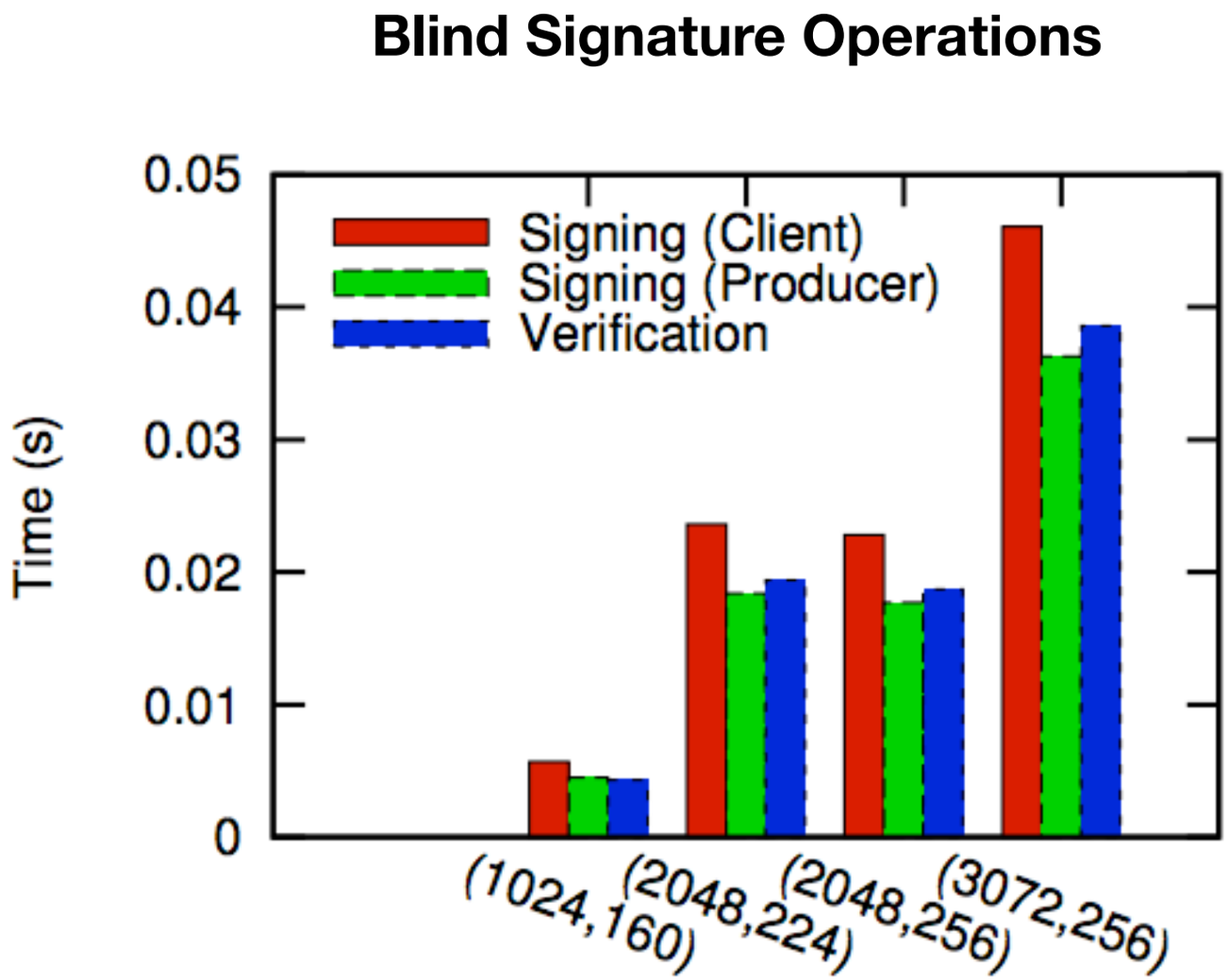
Evaluation: Producing At-large Credentials

Blind Signature Size (bandwidth)

Key Parameters	Signature Size (Bytes)
(1024,160)	210
(2048,224)	287
(2048,256)	325
(3072,256)	326

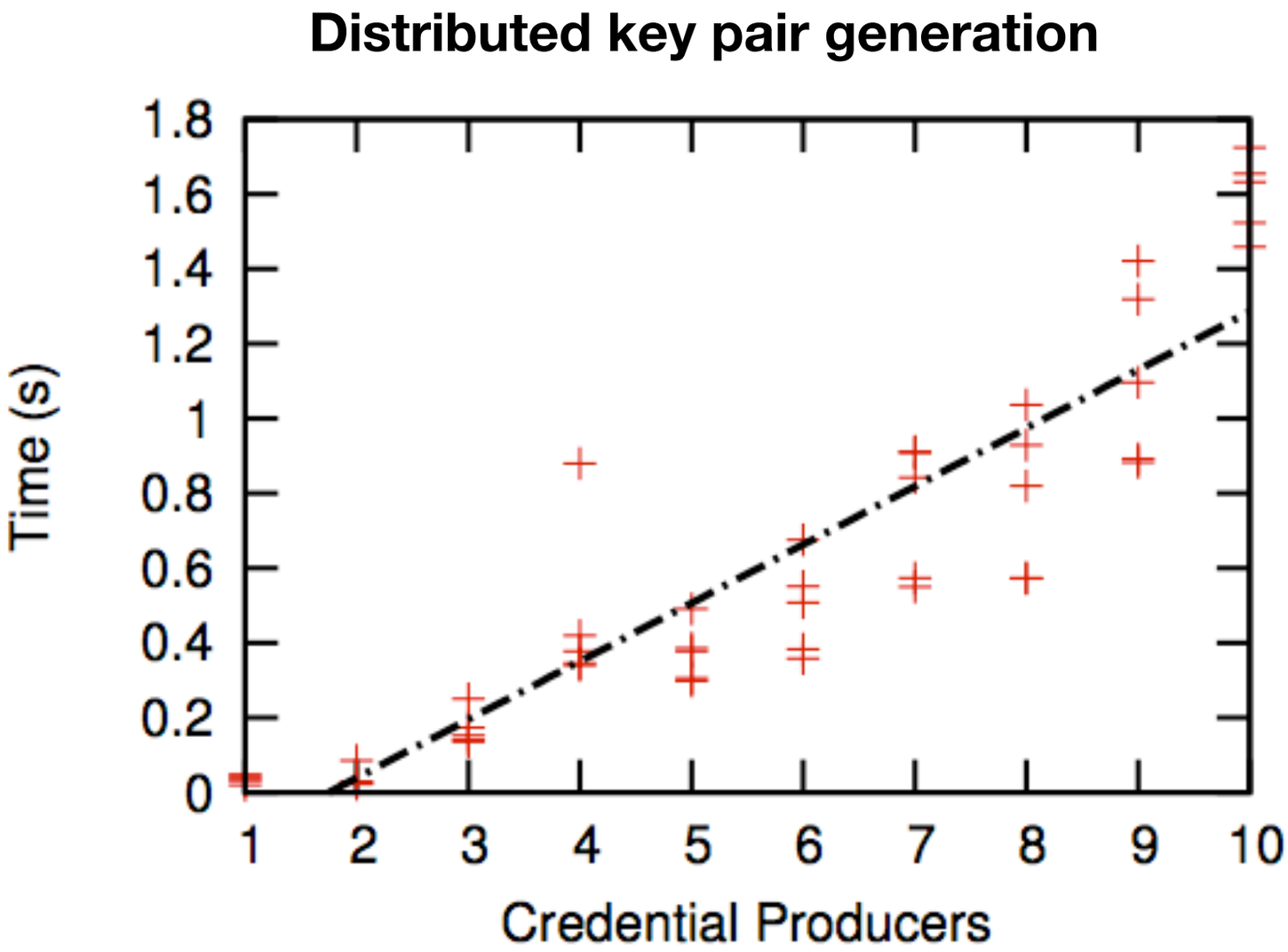
- Network overhead between client and producer depends on the size (and hence strength) of the signature

Evaluation: Producing/Consuming At-large Credentials



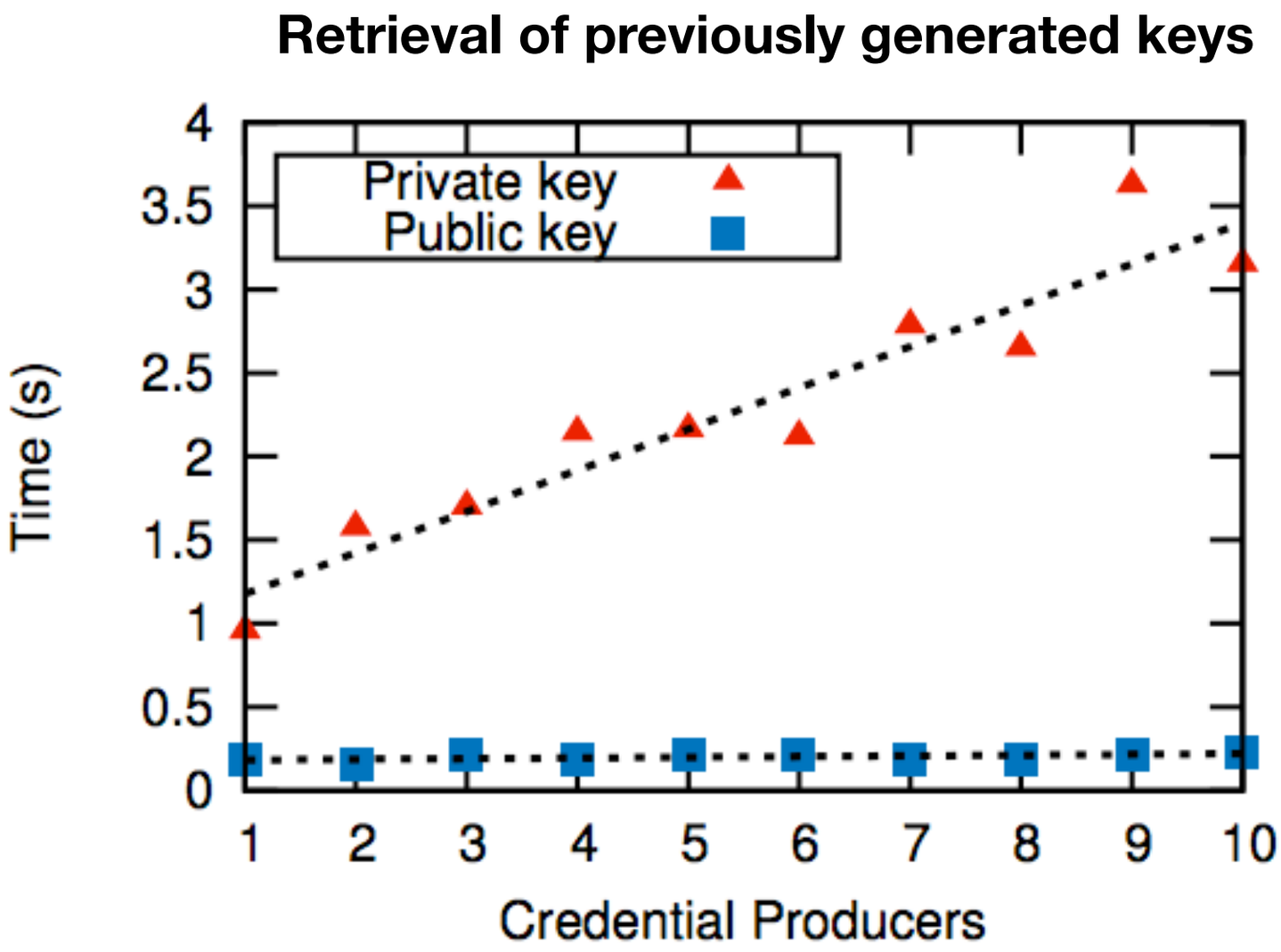
- For a 2048-bit signing key, credential production takes approximately 50ms of computation time, verification takes less than 20ms,

Evaluation: Producing Group Credentials



- **Key pair generation:** The first time a key pair is requested it is collectively generated by the producers

Evaluation: Producing Group Credentials



- **Key retrieval:** requests to all producers are performed in parallel. Private keys include Facebook authentication

Evaluation: Consuming Credentials

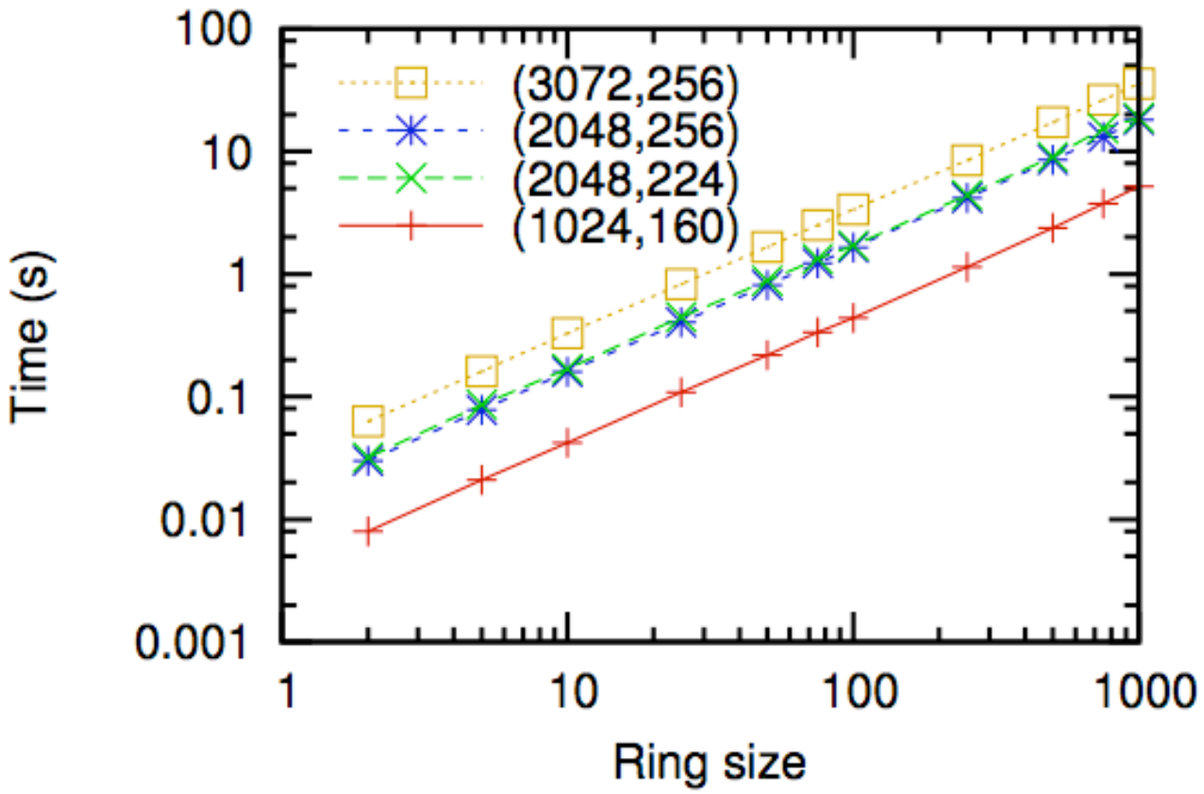
End-to-end group credentials evaluation

Entity	Operation	Time (s)
Client	Produce LRS	0.257
Credential Consumer	Fetch Public Keys	1.011
	Verify LRS	0.035
Client-Consumer Network Latencies		0.304
Total User-Observable		**1.607**

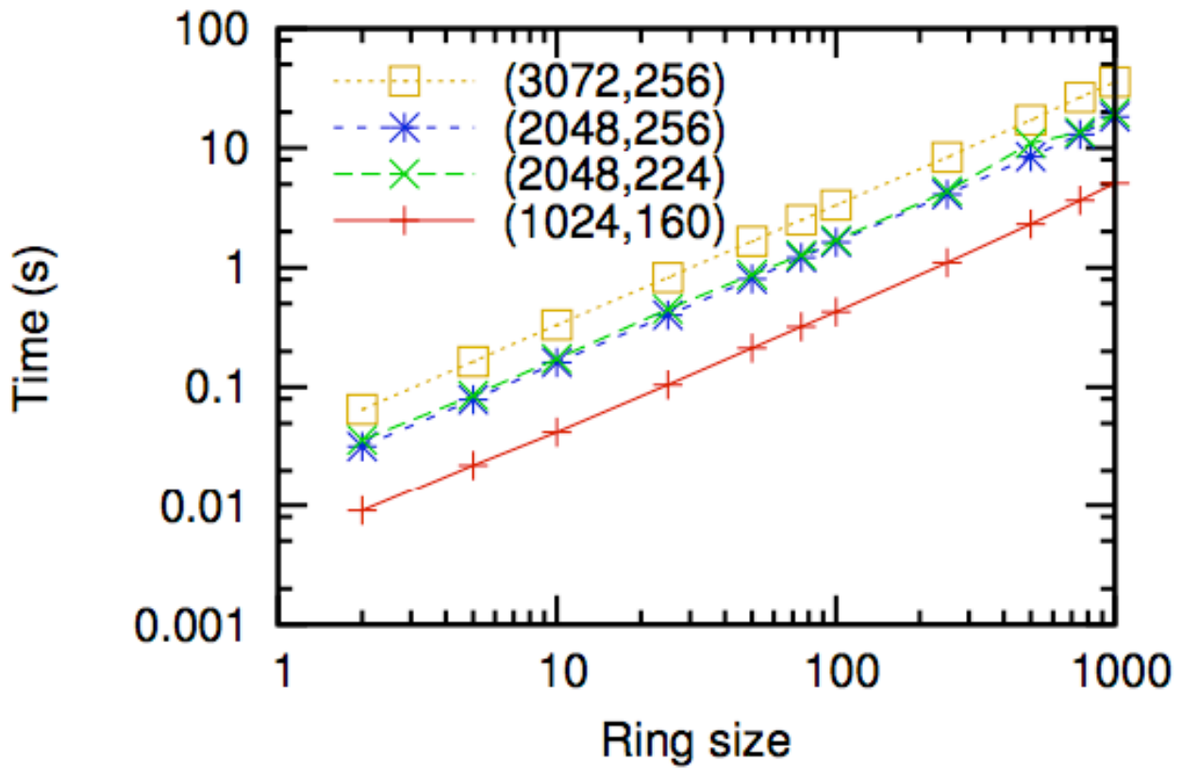
- **Group credential:** ten Facebook identities for DeDiS group
- 1.2s overhead vs non-anonymous federated authentication

Evaluation: Consuming Credentials

LRS signing

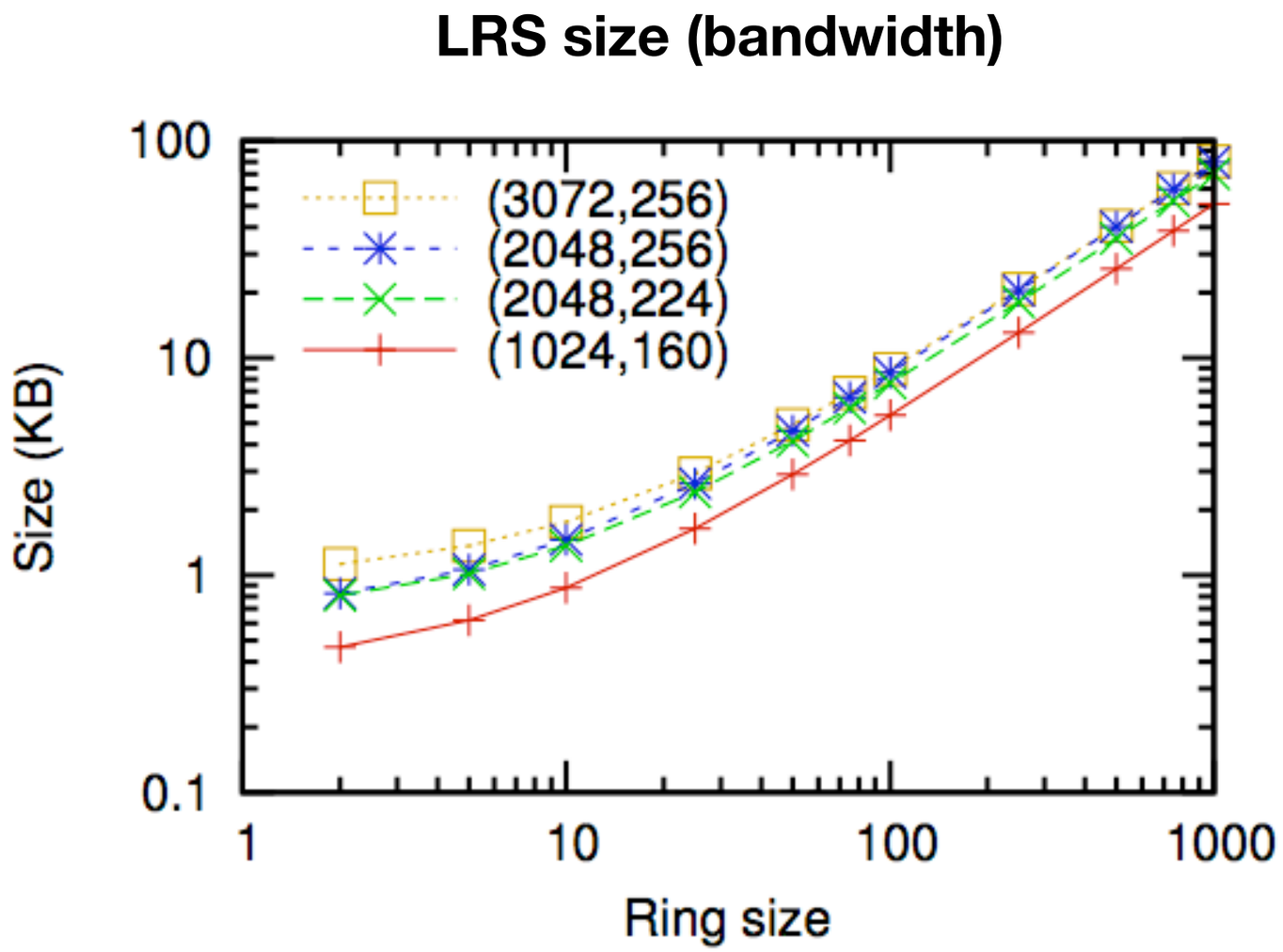


LRS verification



- For ring size ~100 (2048-bit keys), operations <1s

Evaluation: Consuming Credentials



- For ring sizes ~100 (2048-bit keys), signatures <10KB.

Roadmap

1. Background
2. Work Overview
3. System Architecture
4. Credential Producers and Consumers
   - At -Large Credentials
   - Group Credentials
5. Evaluation
6. **Conclusions**

Conclusions and Future Directions

- Crypto-Book is a pluggable architecture for providing privacy preserving credentials based on federated identity providers.

- Experimental evaluations show acceptable overheads

- Privacy conscious applications can be developed on top of this platform

- Pluggable nature means other privacy preserving technologies can be integrated in future

Acknowledgements

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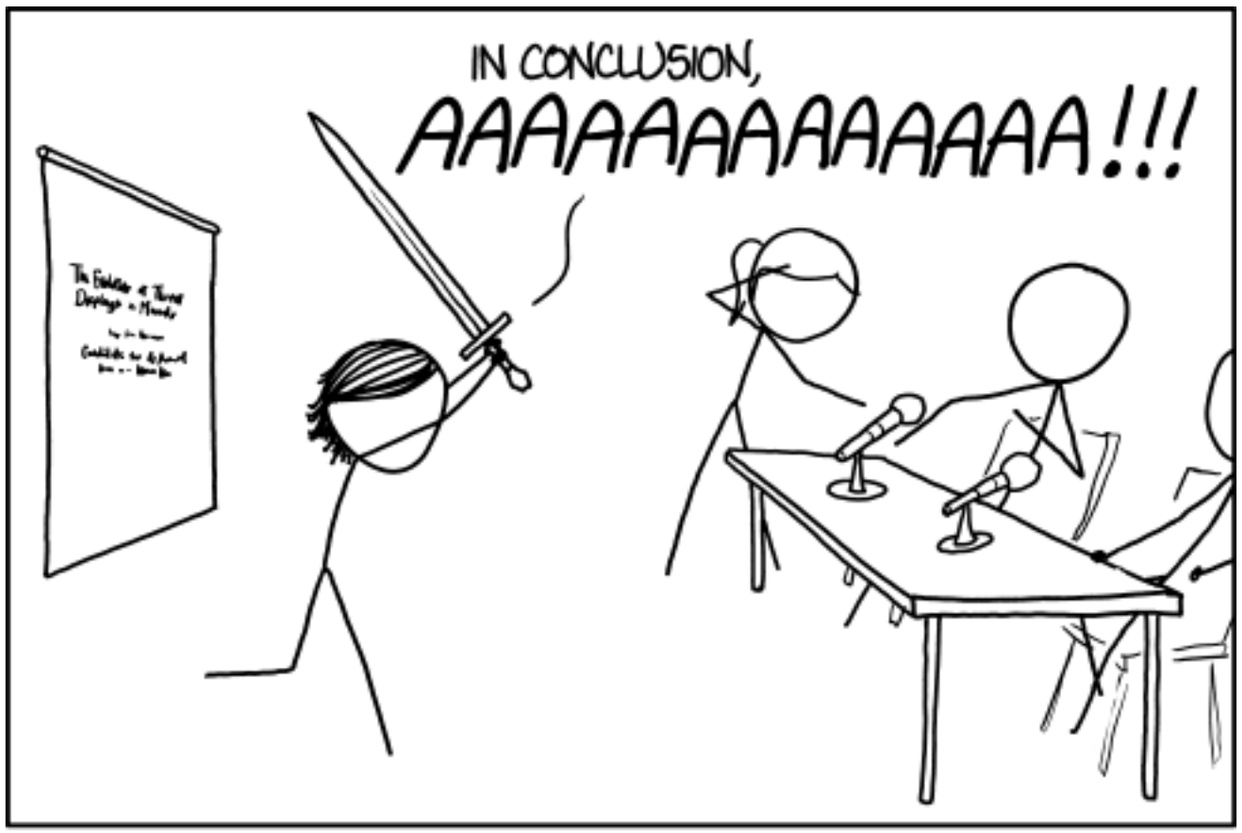
- Thanks to the everyone in the Yale Computer Science department and everyone else for attending



THE BEST THESIS DEFENSE IS A GOOD THESIS OFFENSE.

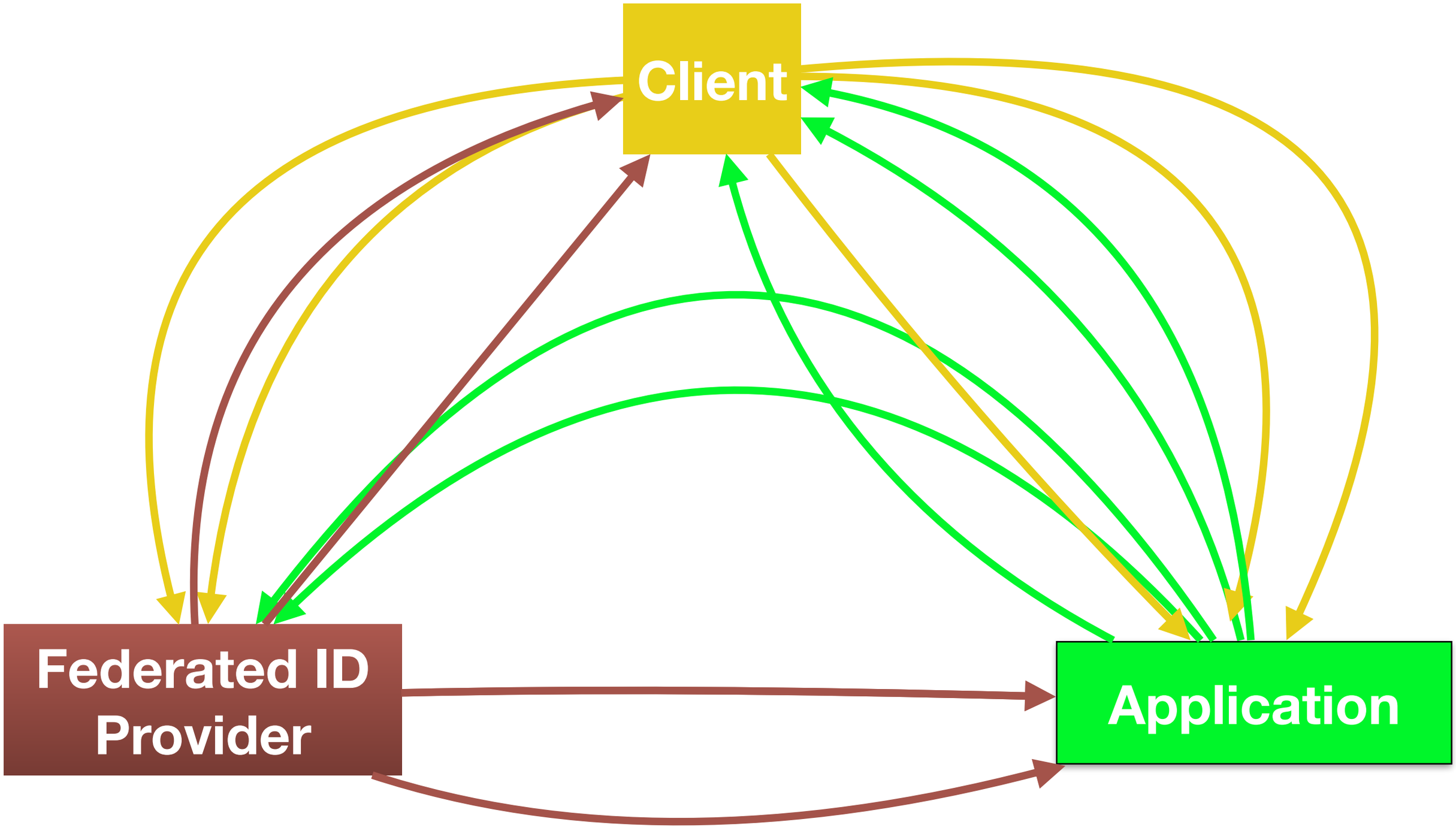
Thanks!

[Subsequent slides are were removed from presentation and may be incomplete]

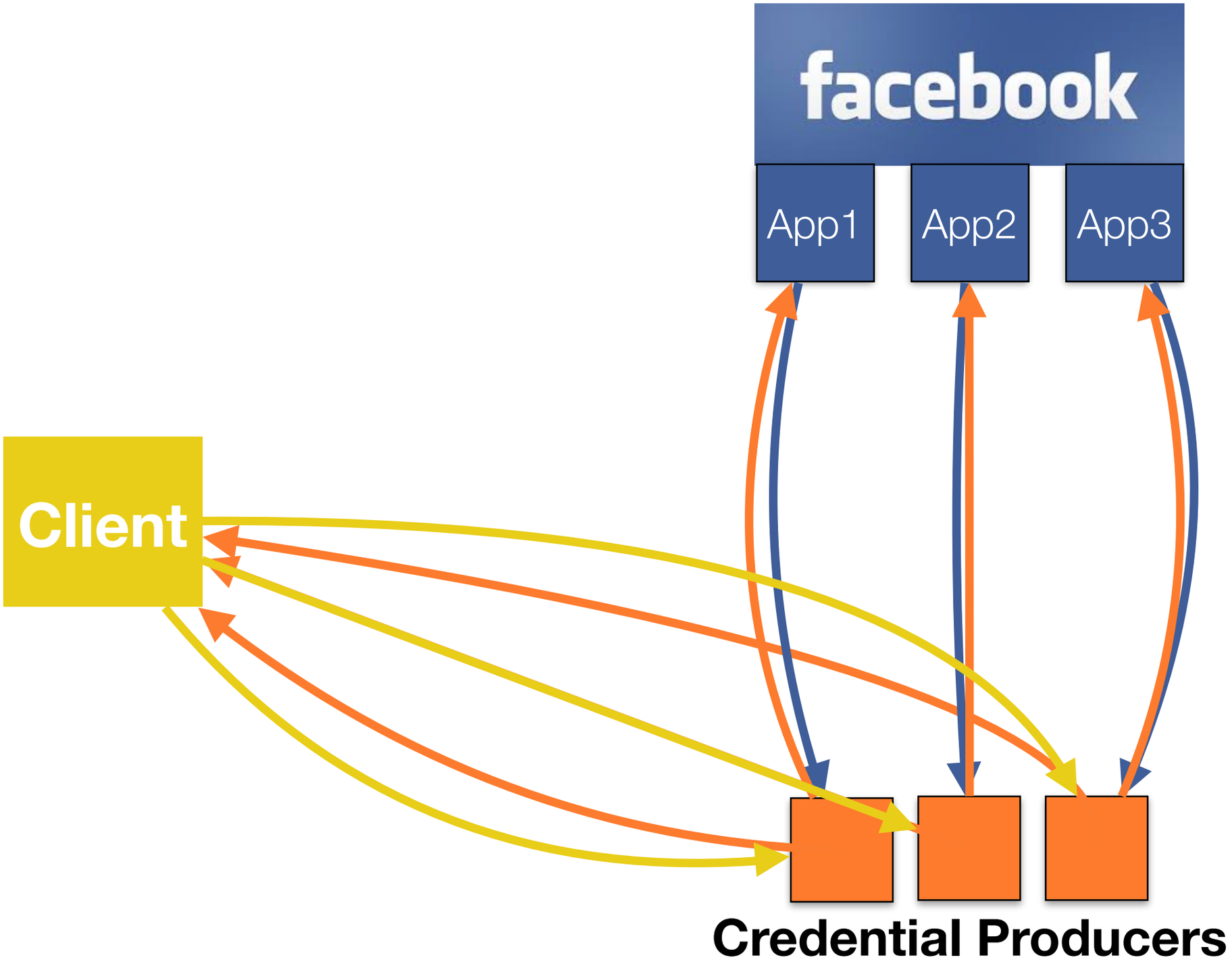
“Two Principles of Deadlines:
1. All deadlines converge on the same day—Deadline Day.
2. Every day is Deadline Day.”

–Bryan Ford

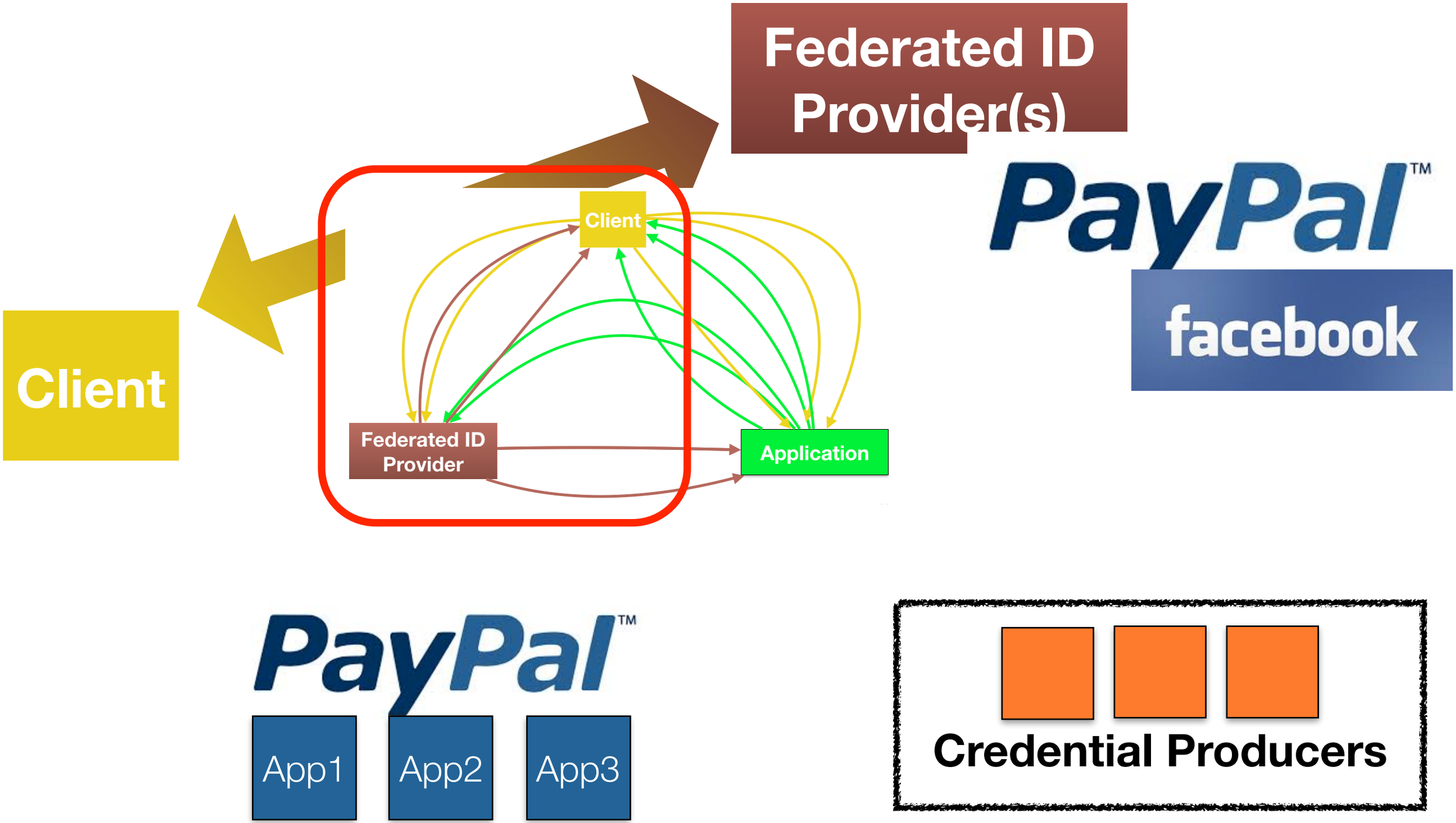
Federated Authentication Interaction



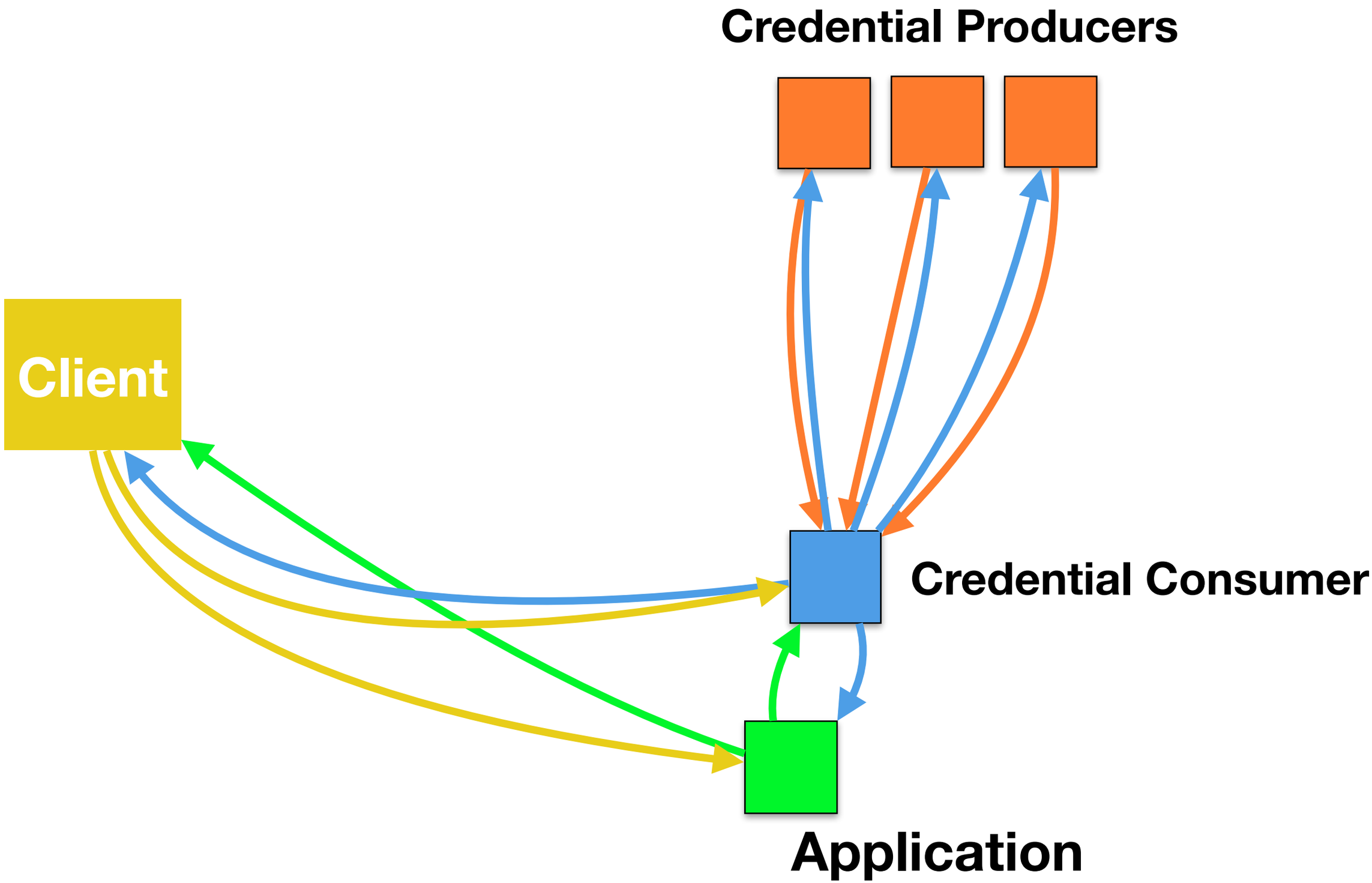
Credential Assignment Mechanism



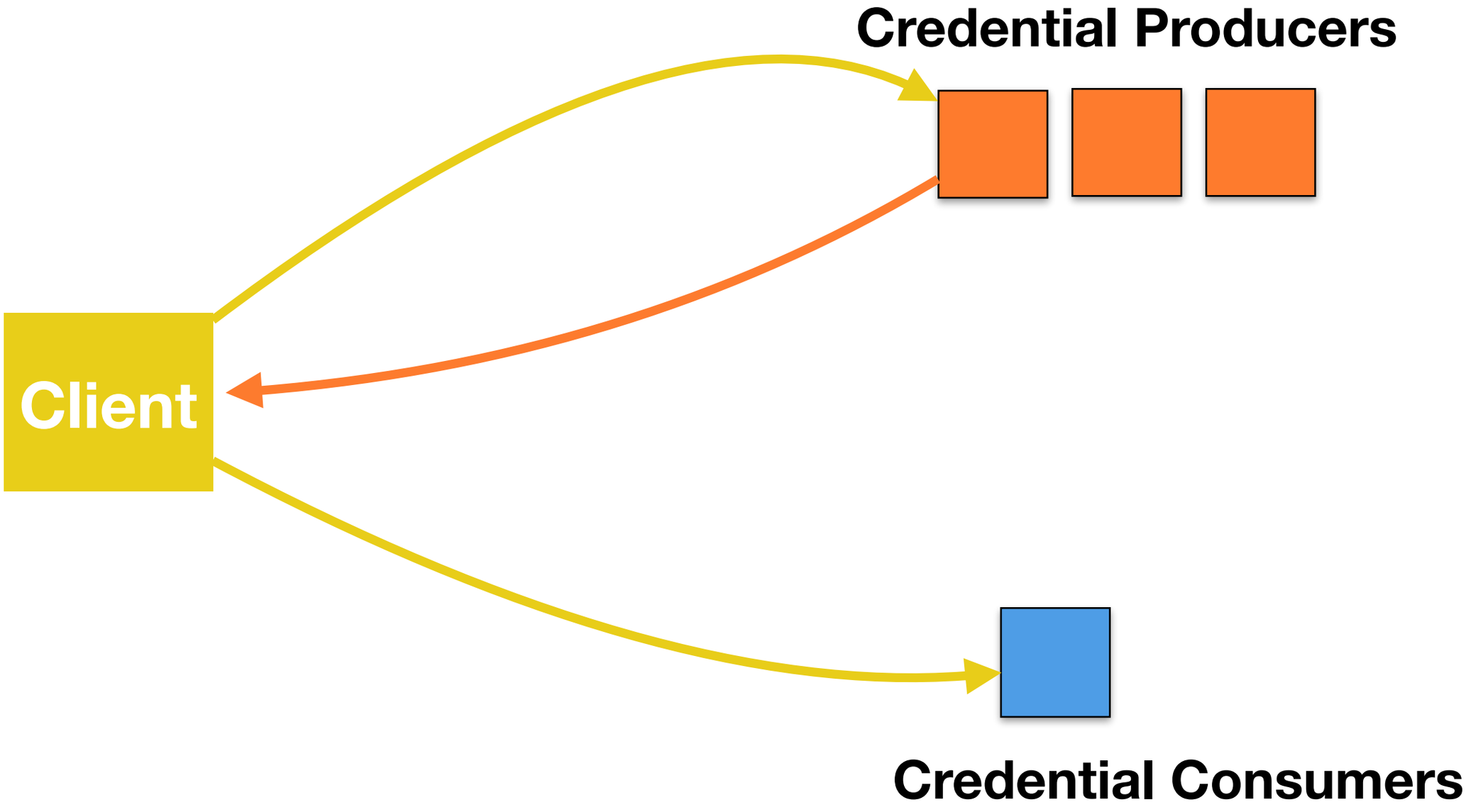
Credential Assignment Mechanism



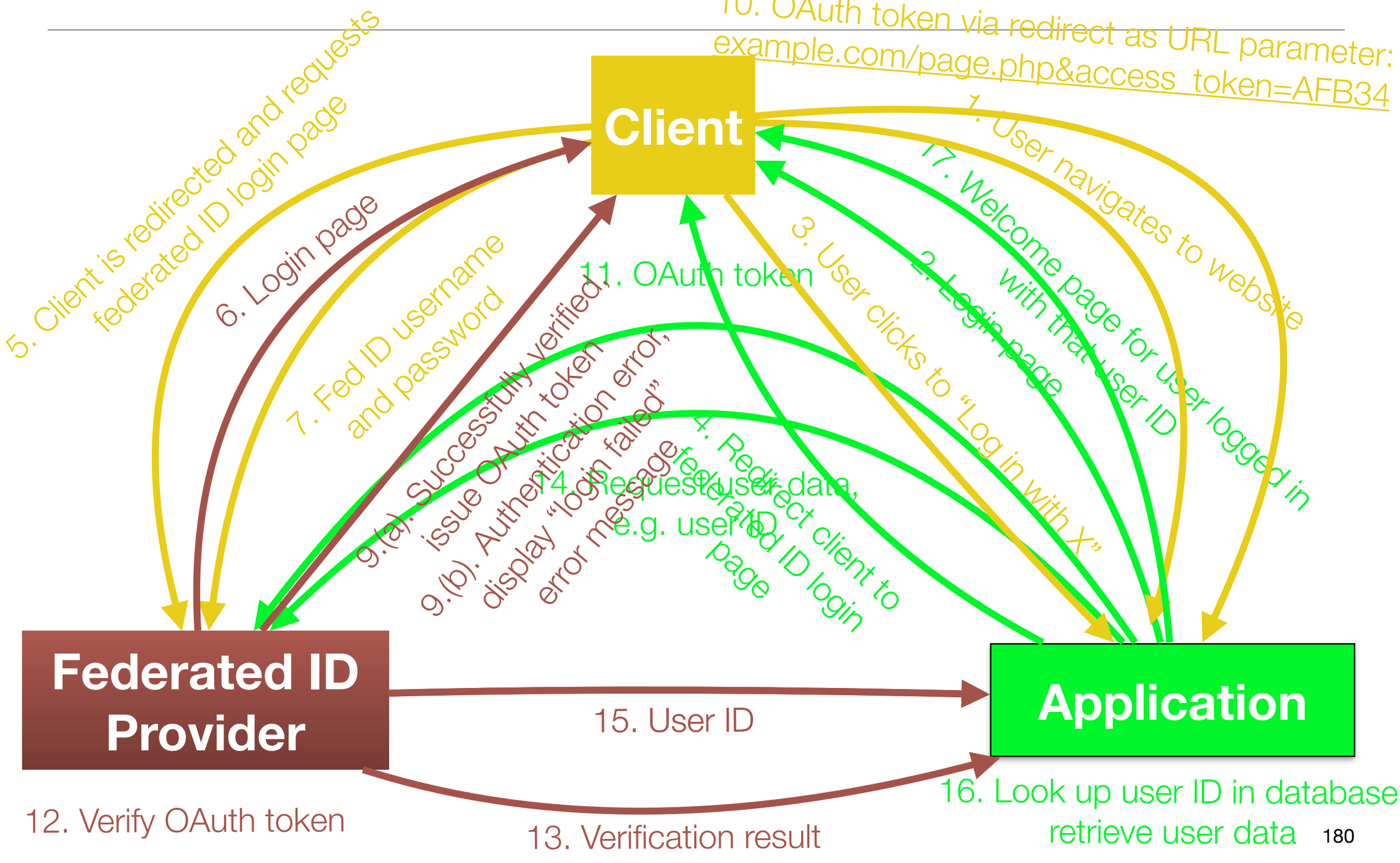
System Architecture



At-Large Credential Scheme



Federated Authentication Interaction



Group Credential Scheme

```
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84                  <div class=crypto-book-keys>
85                      <span id=keys hidden>
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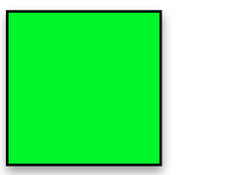

Chat Room Application