1) Credentials

Identity Provider (IdP)

Authenticates user-agent on behalf of RP

User-agent
   or
Browser
   or
Rich Client App

or ...

Wants to access resource
or service offered by RP

2) Token / certificate

Boundary

Relying Party (RP)
   or
Service Provider

or ...

Delegates / outsources authentication to
external authority (IdP)

3) Token / certificate

Classic high-level authentication protocol flow