

Deferred Key Binding for OAuth Tokens

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Trust me, bruh.

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PKC In A Nutshell



Anyone can know this

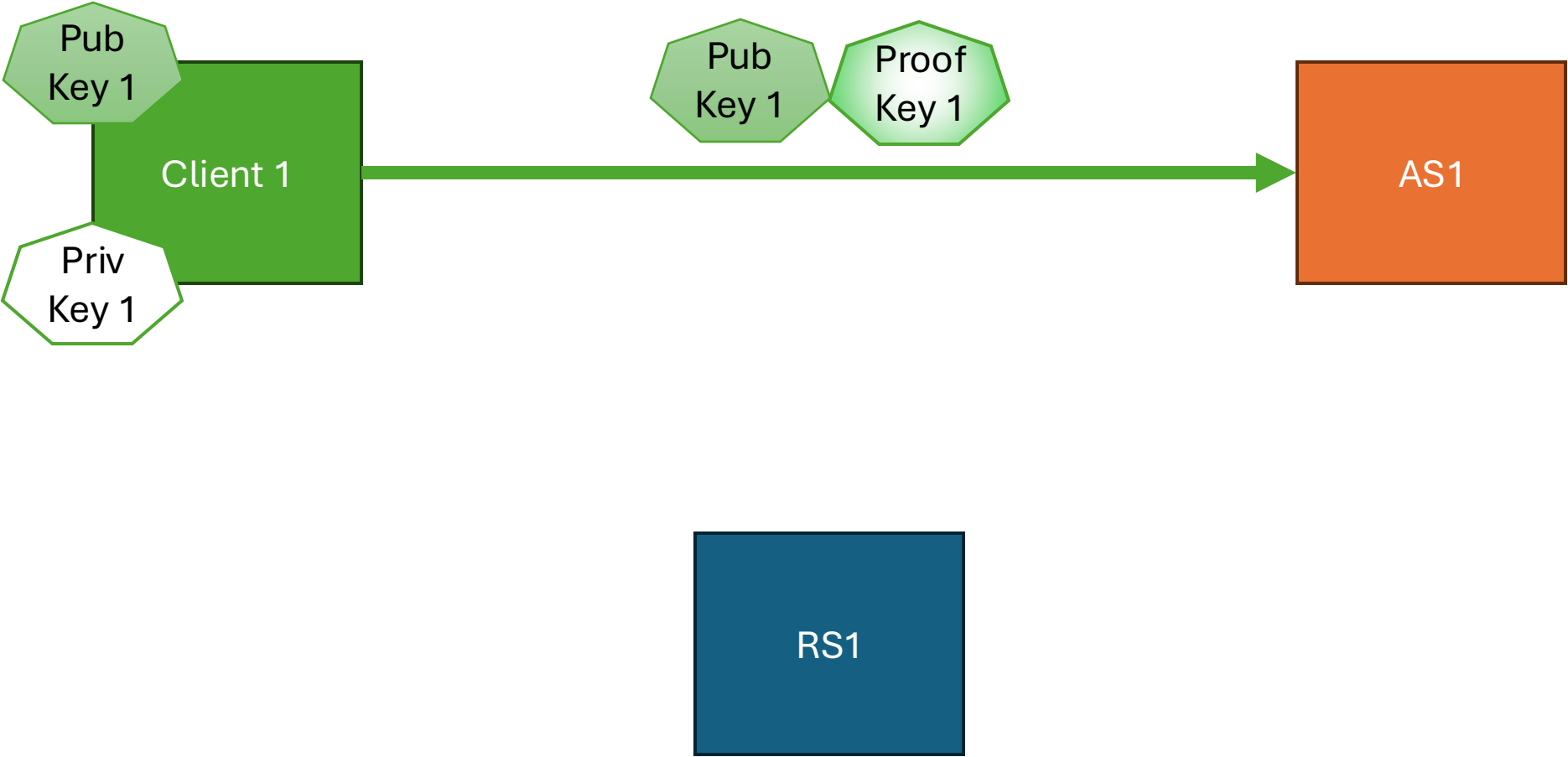


This one is secret

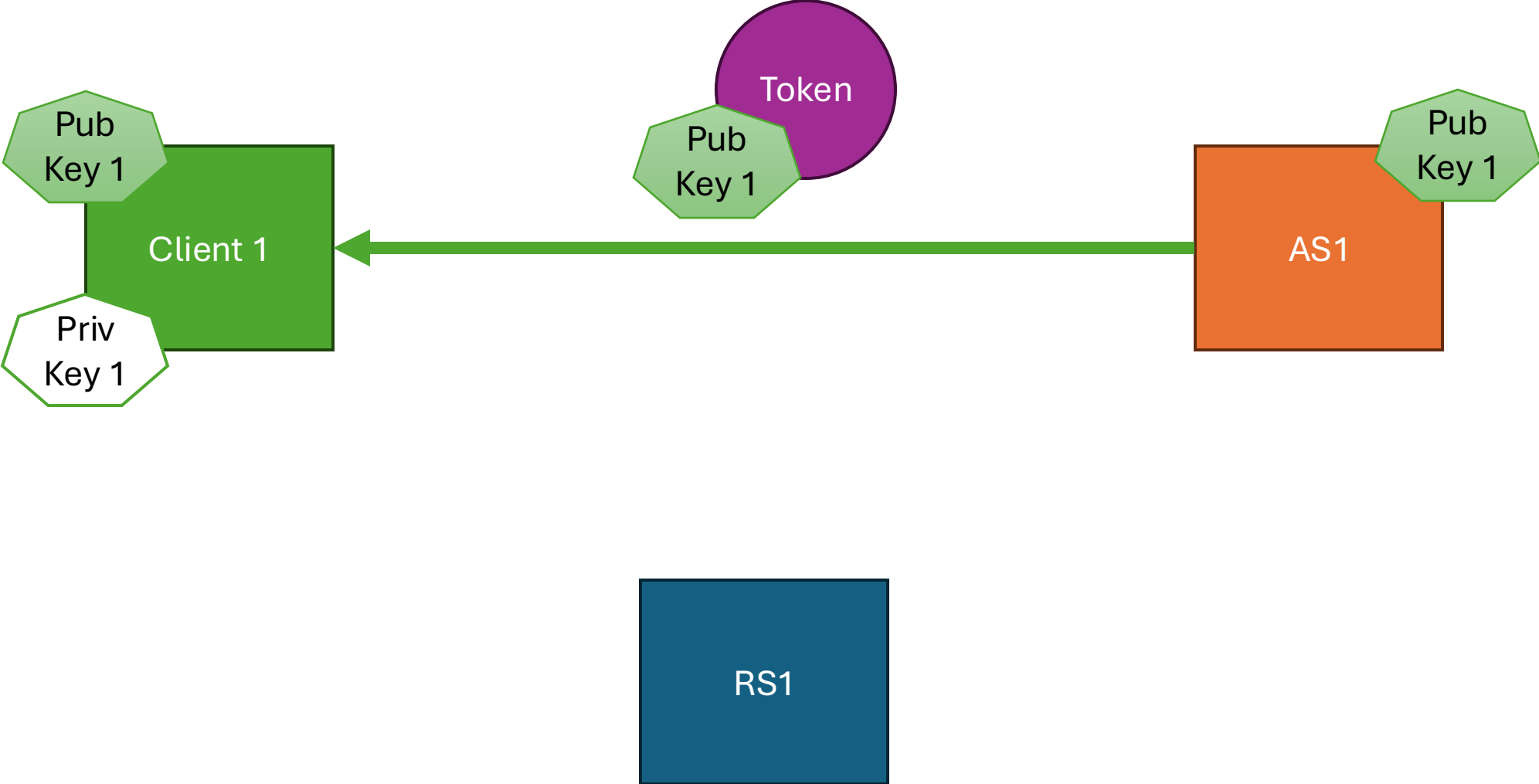


Need access to the secret to create this proof

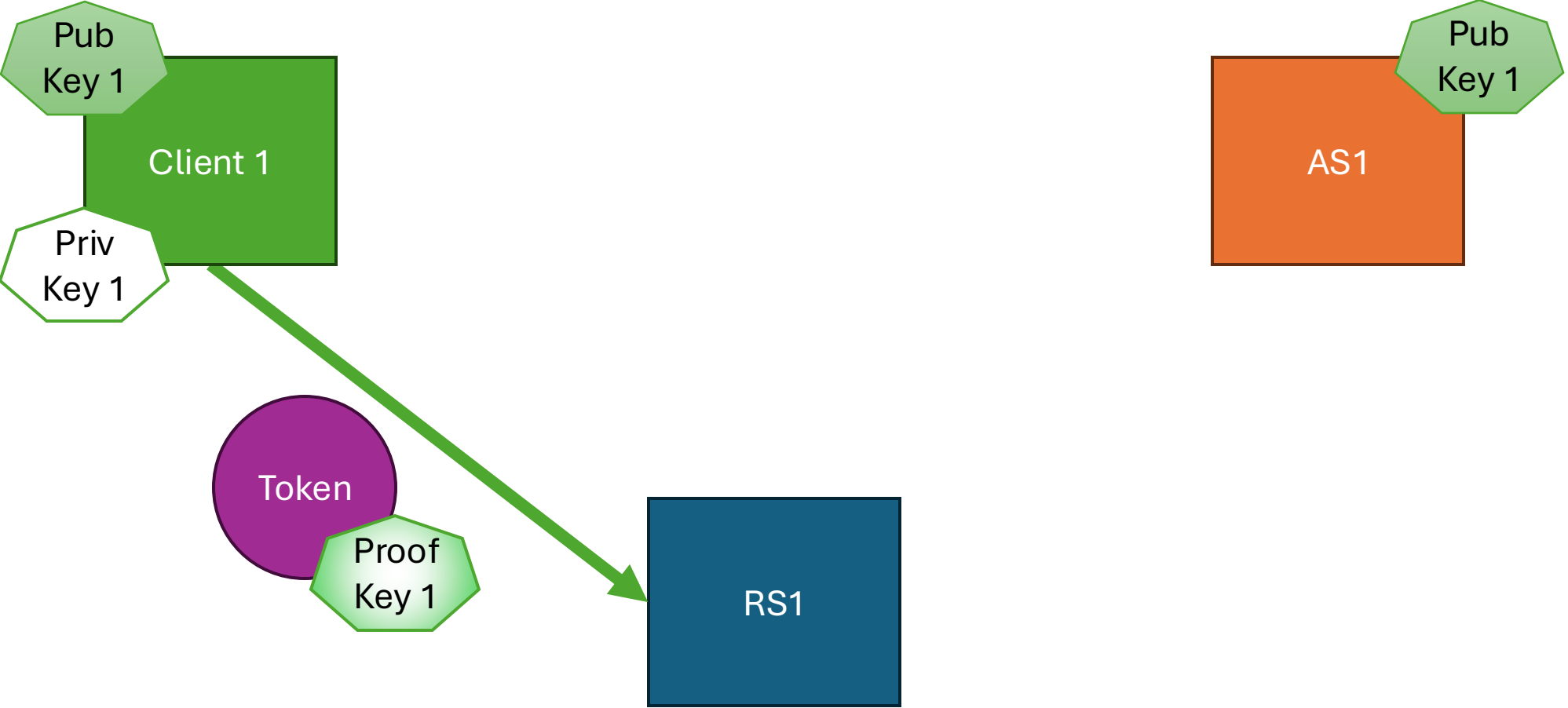
Present proof of possession of key 1 to request a bound token



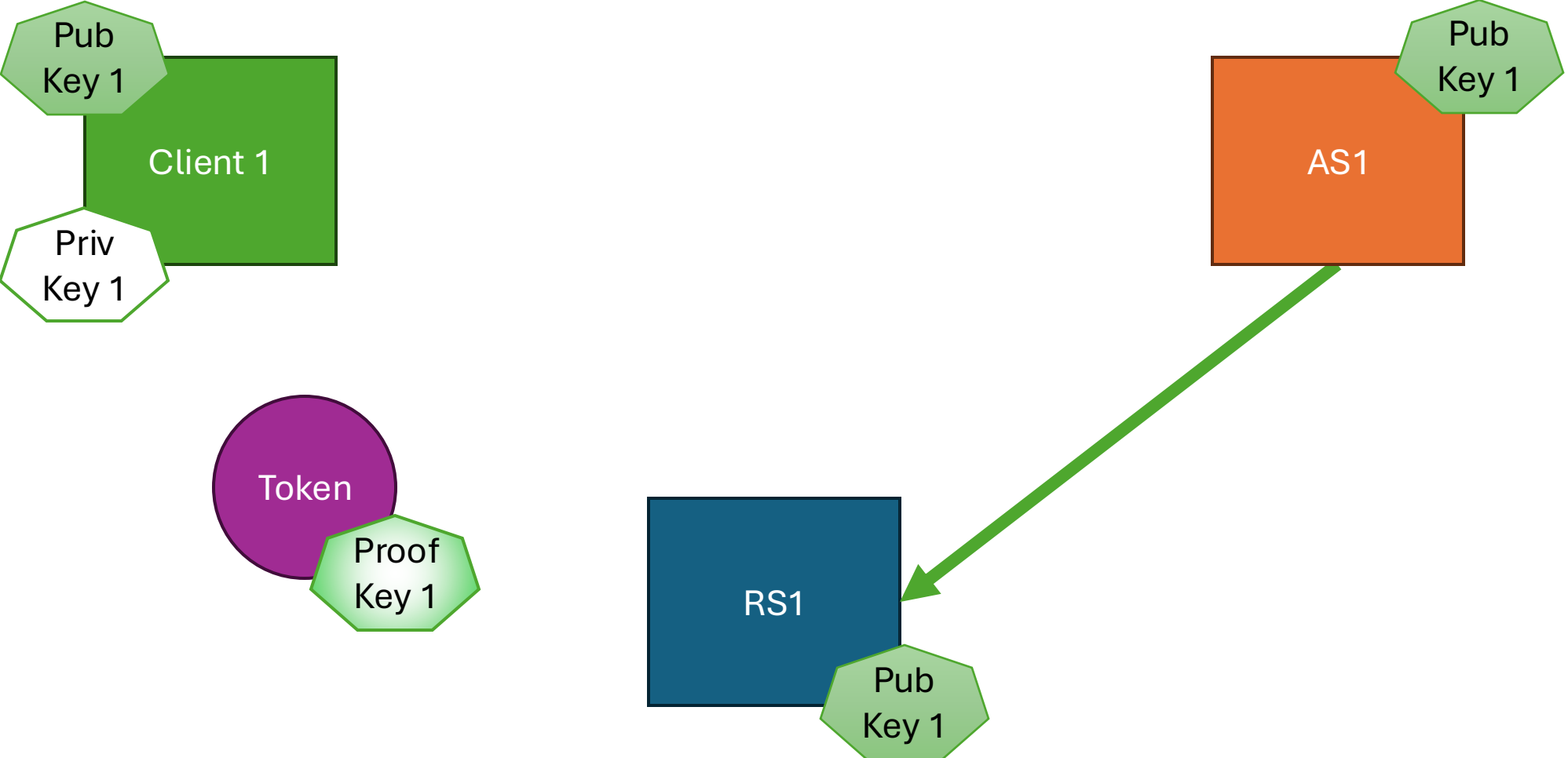
Get a token bound to key 1



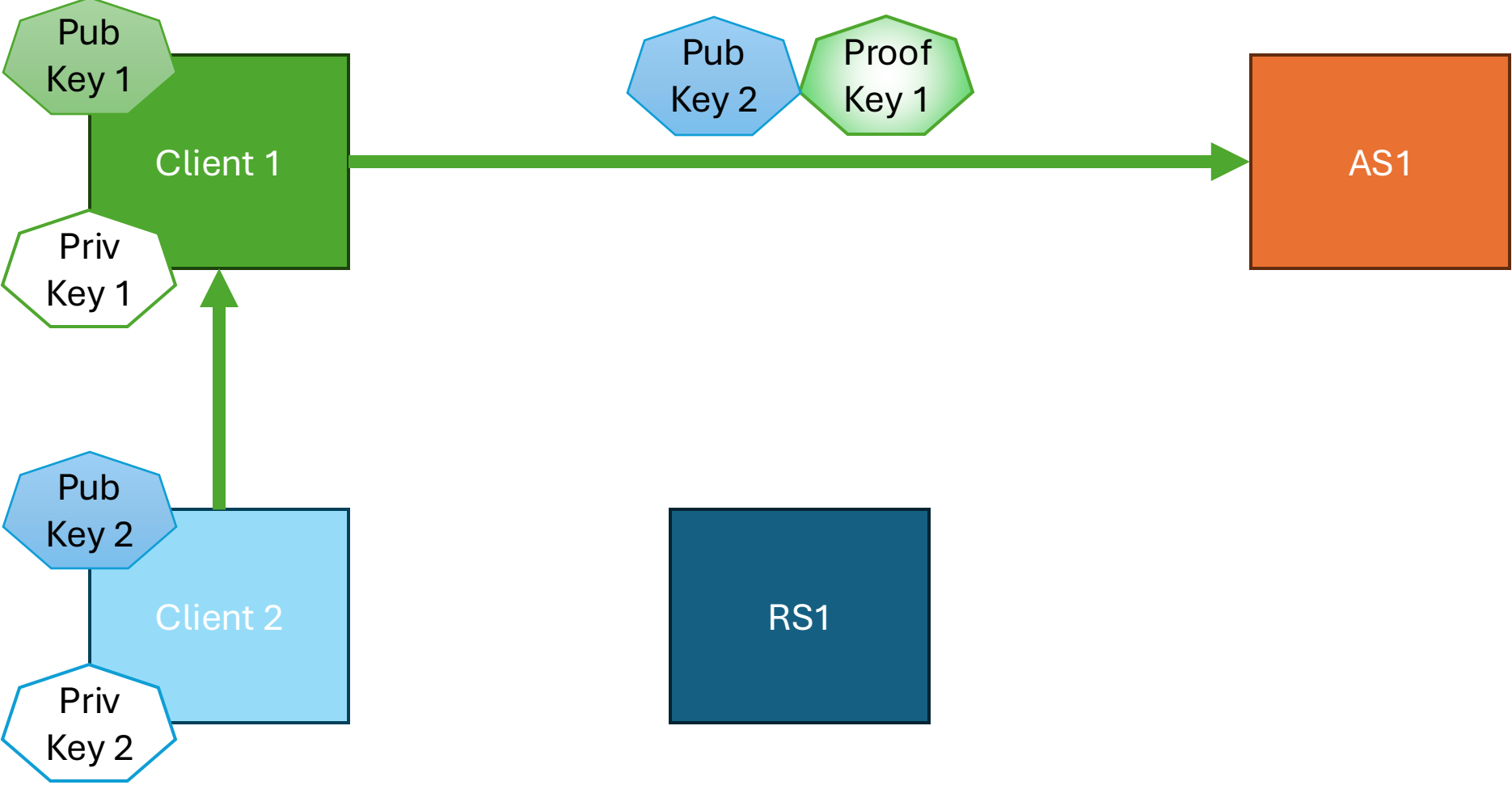
Present a token with a proof of key 1



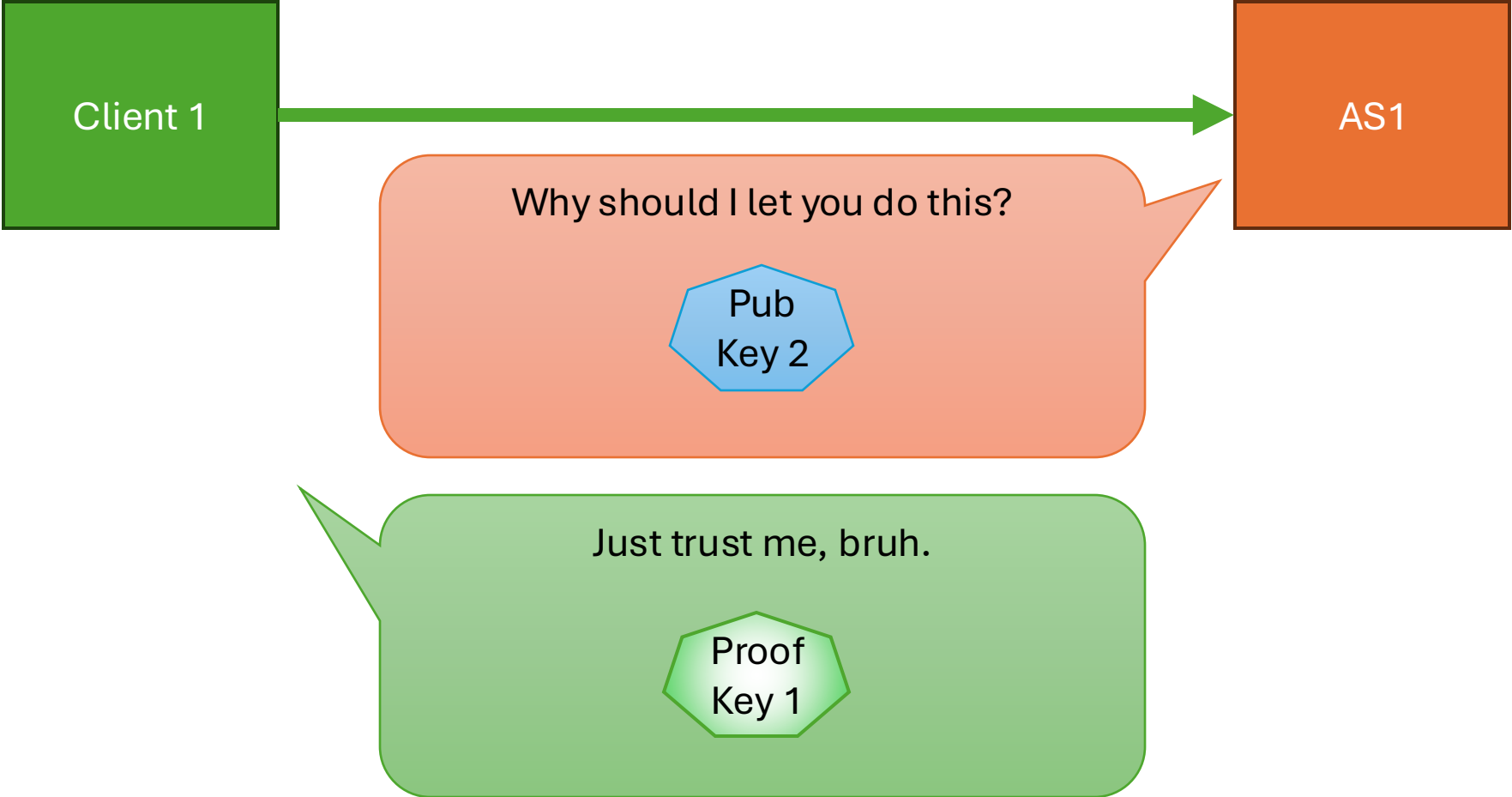
Validate proof with access to public key



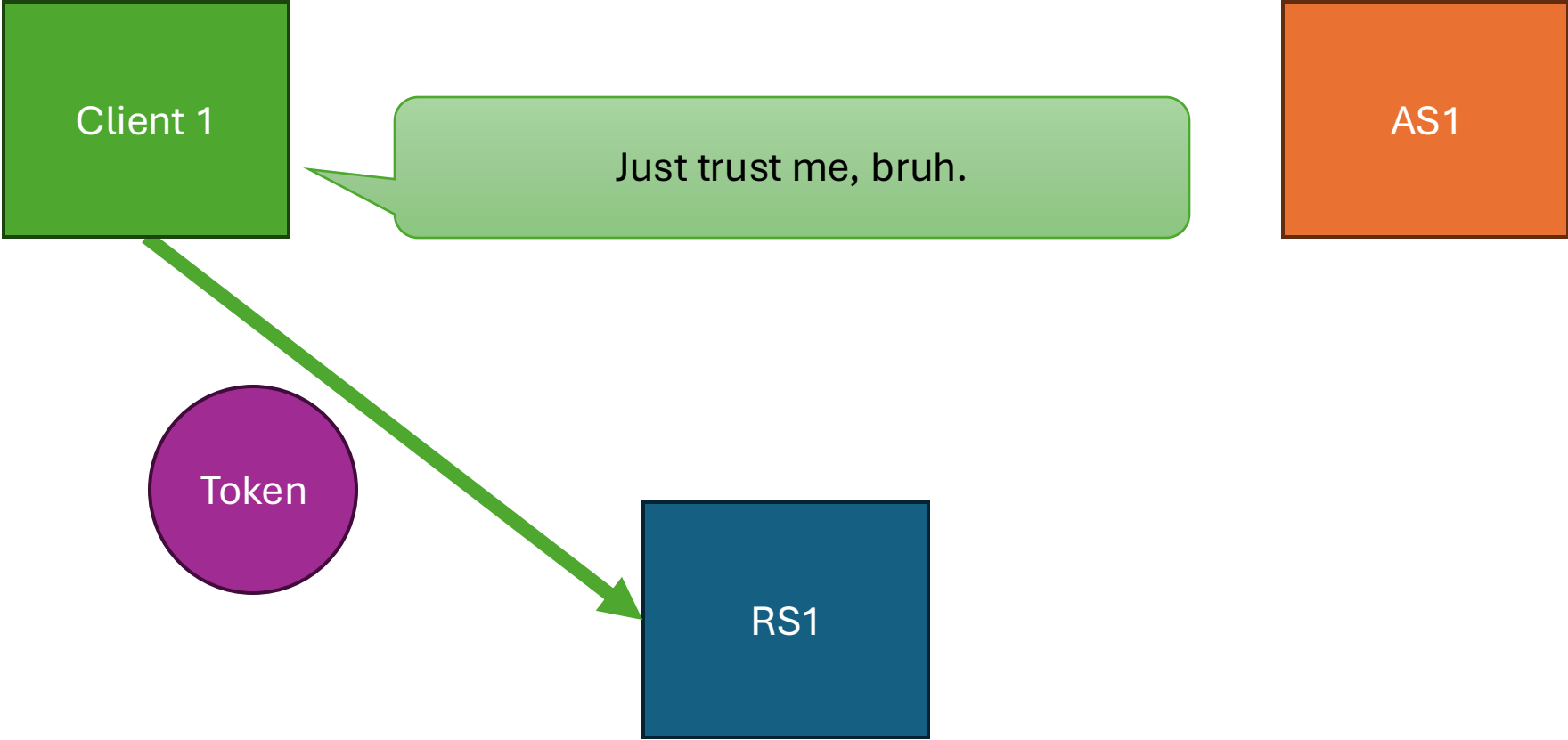
But if I want to get a token bound to a key I don't have



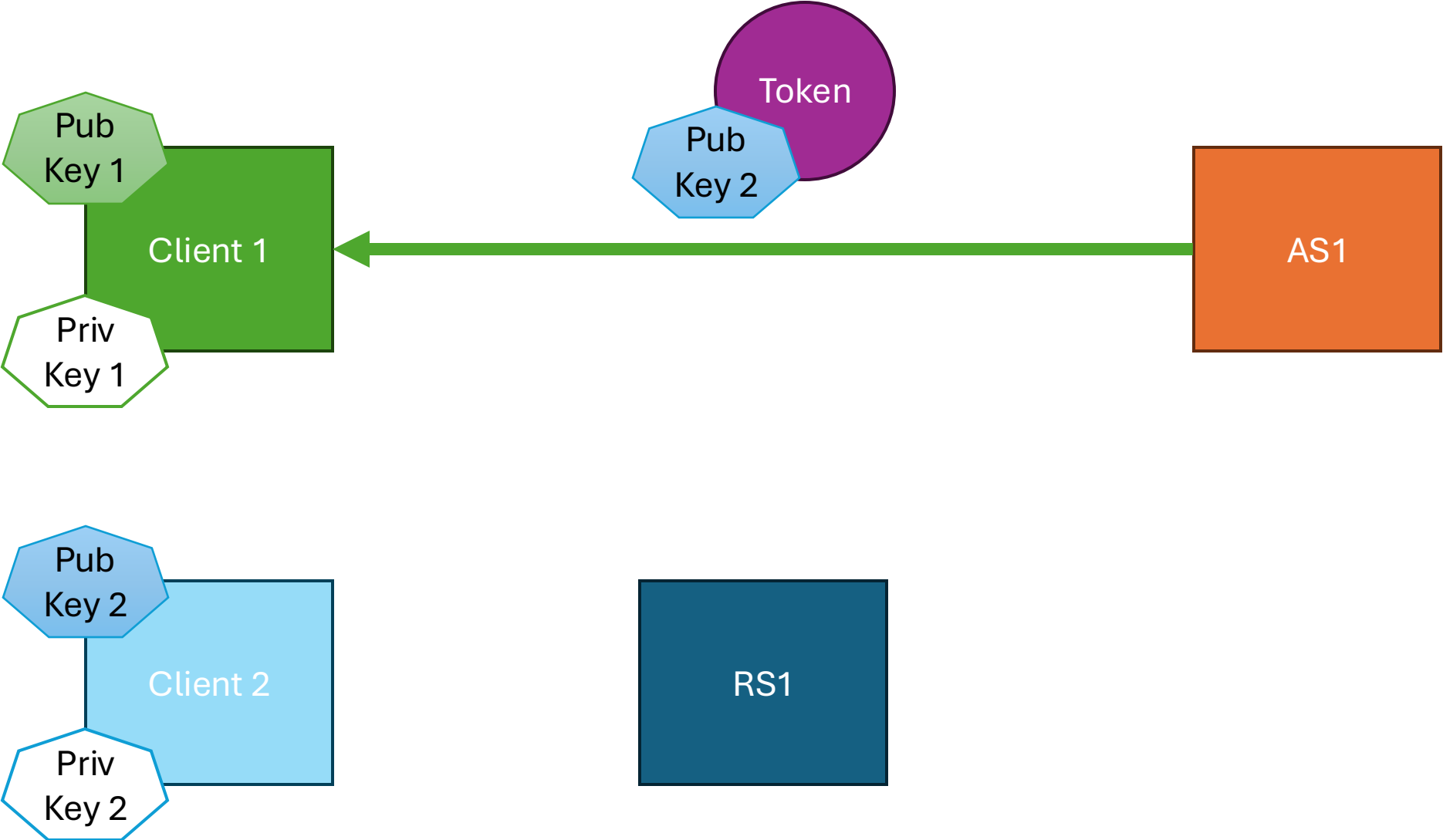
The proof doesn't line up with the request



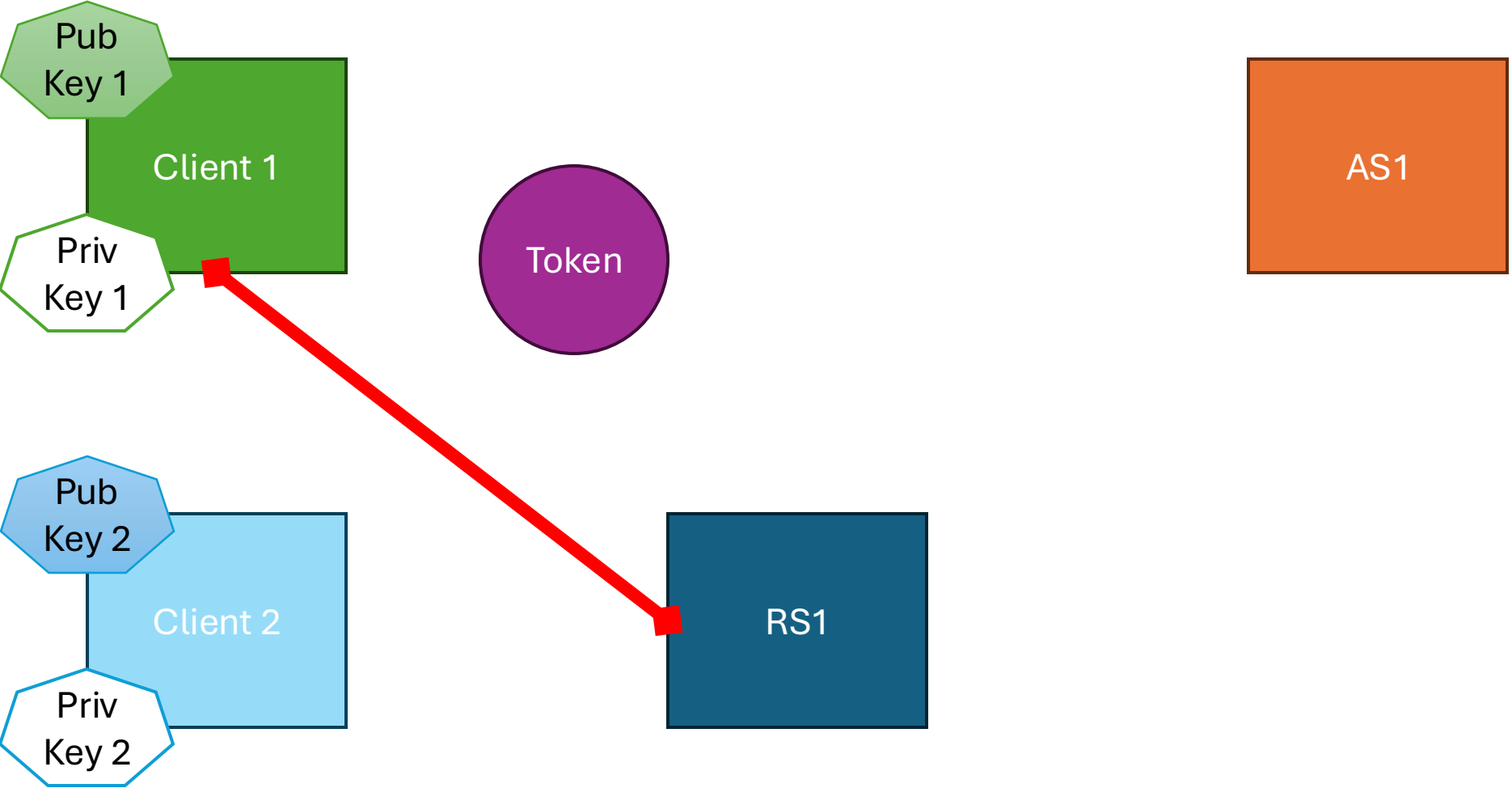
Bearer tokens already kinda do this, it's keys that make it weird



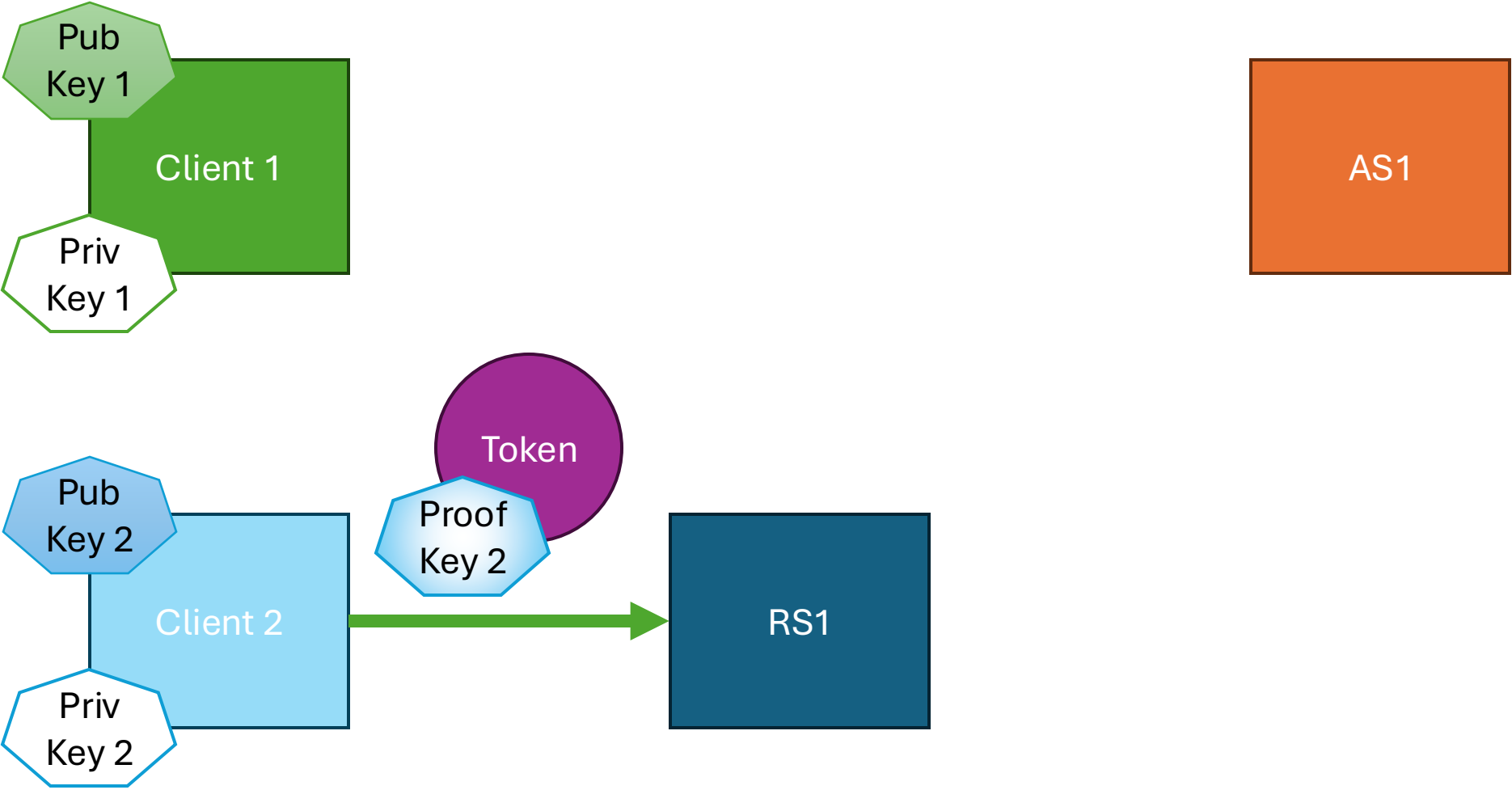
The desired result



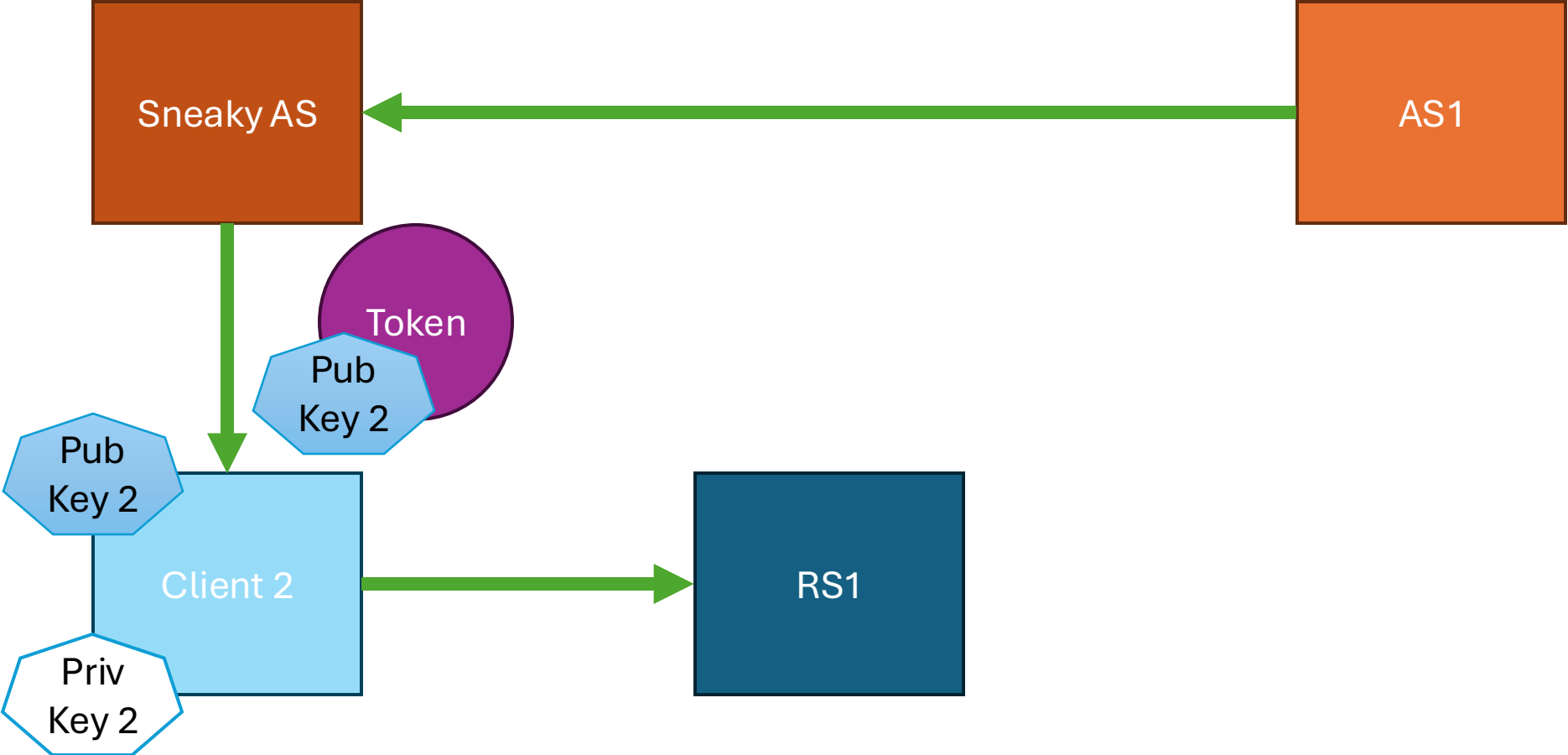
This does not work (by design)



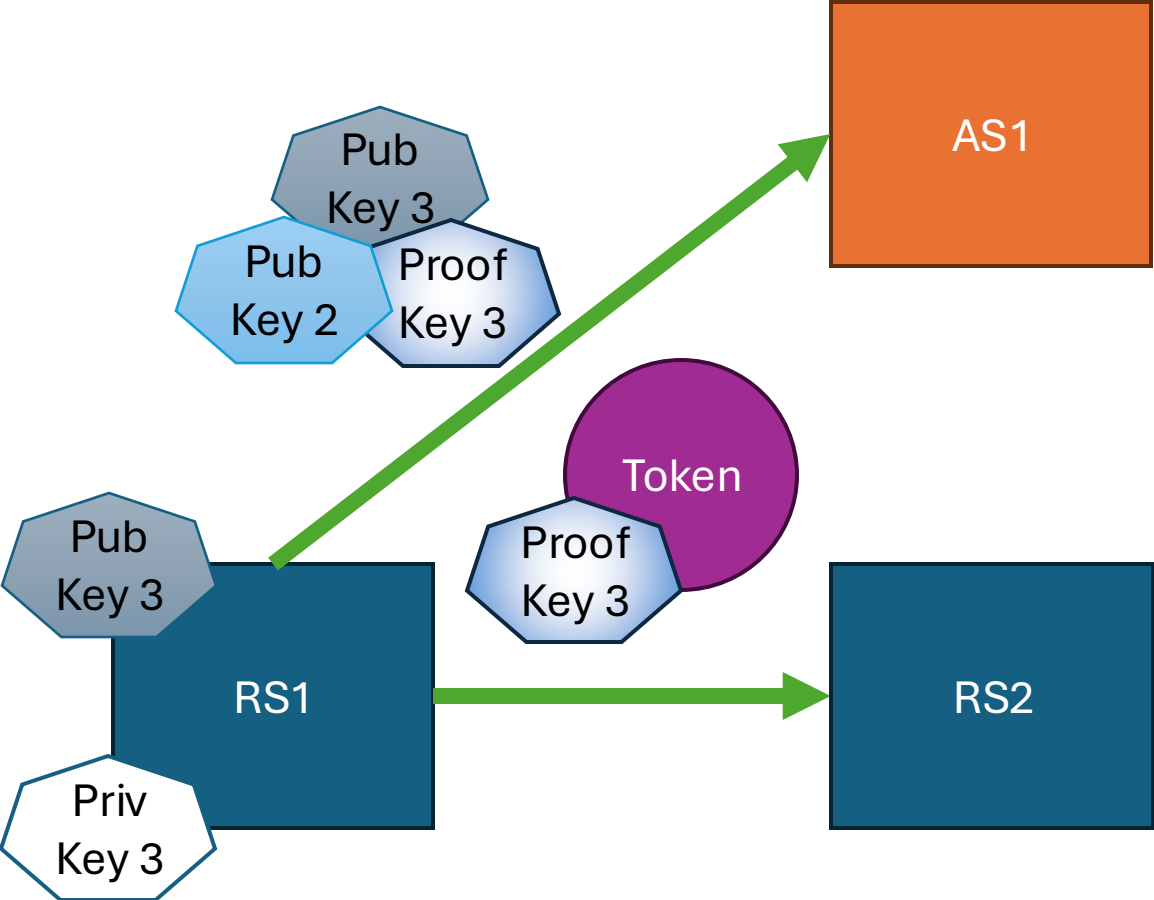
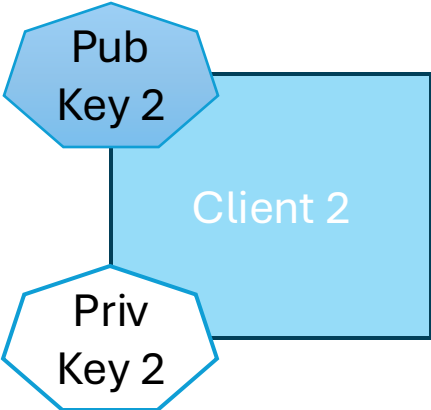
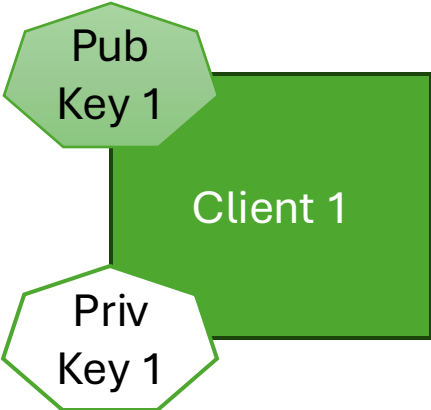
This does work



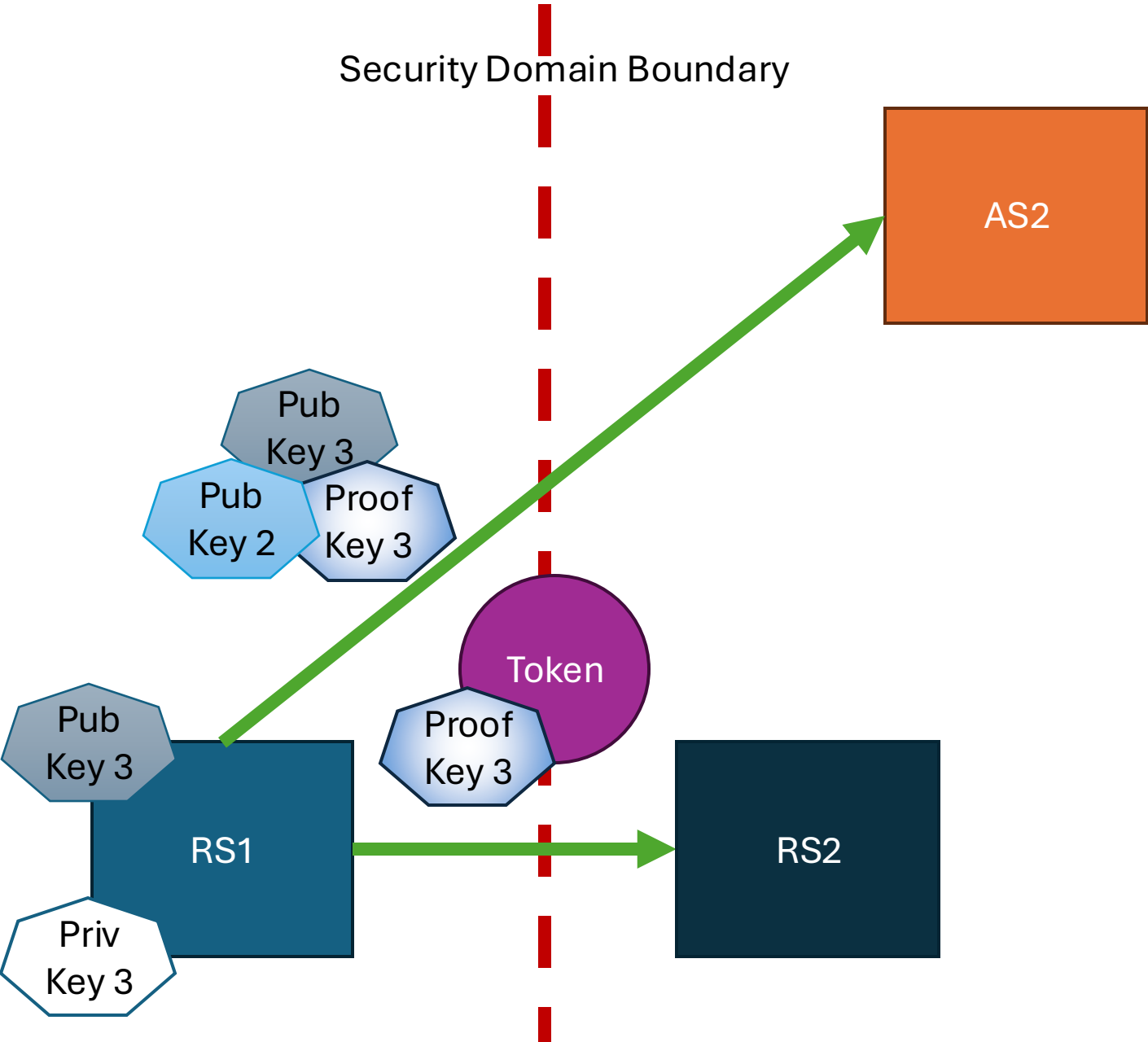
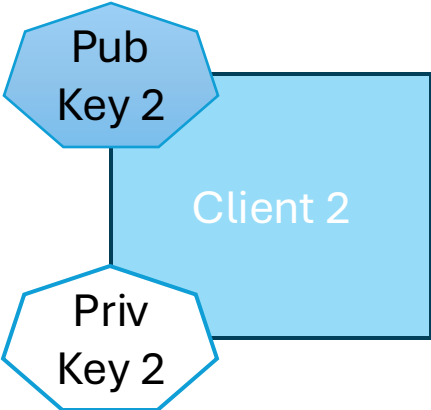
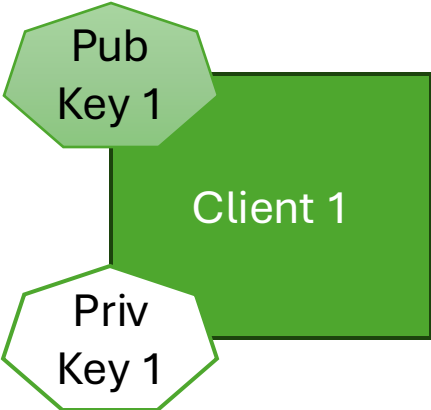
Why could this maybe be bad?



And then there's this



And this



So what do we do about it?

- It keeps coming up in conversations and drafts
- So far we're pretty hand-wavy about it
- It's a different set of security assumptions and properties than what OAuth claims to be built on
- Different patterns for getting what we're after
- Do we define a pattern? Define protocol parameters?

We could at least document it

<https://datatracker.ietf.org/doc/html/draft-richer-oauth-tmb-claim>

The draft is tongue-in-cheek but the problem is not