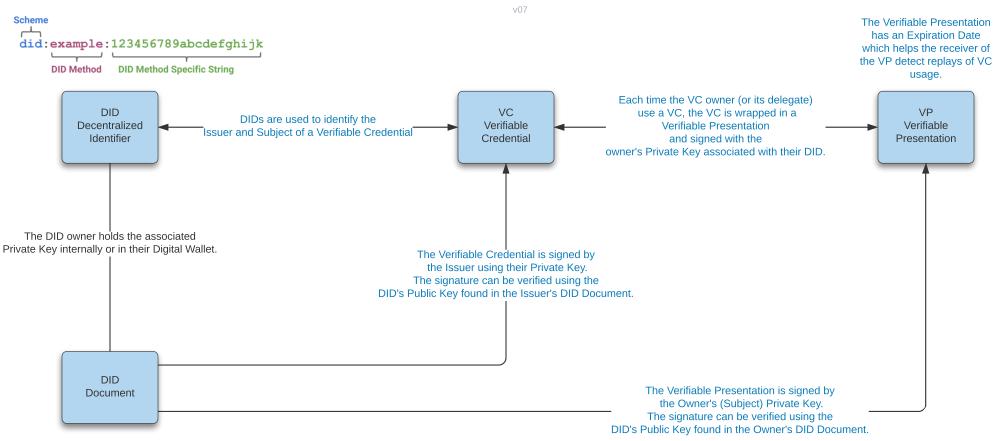
## **W3C Standard Components used in OCI Architecture**



The purpose of the DID document is to describe the public keys, authentication protocols, and service endpoints necessary to bootstrap cryptographically-verifiable interactions with the identified entity.

## How DIDs Differ from Other Globally Unique Identifiers

The need for globally unique identifiers that do not require a centralized registration authority is not new. <u>UUIDs</u>(Universally Unique Identifiers, also called GUIDs, Globally Unique Identifiers) were developed for this purpose in the 1980s and standardized first by the Open Software Foundation and then by <u>IETF RFC 4122</u>.

The need for persistent identifiers (identifiers that can be assigned once to an entity and never need to change) is also not new. This class of identifiers was standardized as <u>URNs</u>(Uniform Resource Names) first by IETF <u>RFC 2141</u> and more recently by <u>RFC 8141</u>.

As a rule, however, UUIDs are not globally resolvable and URNs – if resolvable – require a centralized registration authority. In addition, neither UUIDs or URNs inherently address a third characteristic – the ability to **cryptographically verify ownership of the identifier**.

For **self-sovereign identity**, which can be defined as a lifetime portable digital identity that does not depend on any centralized authority, we need a new class of identifier that fulfills all four requirements: persistence, global resolvability, cryptographic verifiability, and decentralization.

https://w3c-ccg.github.io/did-primer/