

# Contact Form UI/UX Improvements

## Contact Form UI/UX Improvements

**Date:** December 18, 2025

**Task:** Clean up contact form design, reduce clutter, fix confusing verification question styling

### Problem Identified

The verification question in `contact.php` had button-like styling that made it look clickable:

- Bold font weight (600)
- Primary color text (`#1a4b84`)
- White background with padding
- Border radius and thick left border
- Overall "busy" appearance

### Changes Made

#### 1. CSS File: `css/contact.css`

#### Form Container & Layout

- Changed border-radius from `12px` to `3px` (more Wikipedia-like)
- Changed border from box-shadow to simple `1px solid #e0e0e0`
- Increased max-width to `650px` for better readability
- Reduced form-group margin-bottom for tighter spacing

#### Input Fields

- Changed border from `var(--light-gray)` to `#a2a9b1` (Wikipedia standard)
- Changed border-radius from `6px` to `2px` (sharper, cleaner)
- Reduced padding from `var(--space-sm)` to `8px 12px`
- Changed focus color from primary to `#3366cc` (Wikipedia blue)

- Simplified transitions from `0.3s` to `0.15s`

## Verification Section (Major Changes)

- **Removed:** Heavy background, borders, button-like styling
- **Added:** Simple top border separator ( `1px solid #e0e0e0` )
- **Label:** Changed to grey (`#72777d`), smaller (`0.85rem`), normal weight
- **Question:** Changed from `div` to semantic `<p>` tag
  - Normal font weight (not bold)
  - Standard text color
  - Smaller font size (`0.95rem`)
  - No background, padding, or borders
- **Input:** Reduced max-width to `150px` , simplified styling

## Typography & Headings

- Added h2 styling: normal weight, bottom border (Wikipedia-style)
- Changed button to cleaner design with `#3366cc` background
- Simplified all font sizes and weights

## Form Messages

- Changed from rounded pill design to left-border design
- Removed circular icon backgrounds
- Simplified colors (green success, red error)
- Reduced border-radius to `2px`

## New Classes

- `.readonly-field` for logged-in user info display

## 2. HTML File: `contact.php`

## Semantic Improvements

- Changed verification question from `<div>` to `<p class="verification-question">`
- Updated label text to "Verification question (to prevent spam):"

- Added `aria-describedby` to verification input
- Changed placeholder from "Enter your answer" to "Your answer"

## Class Changes

- Replaced inline styles with `.readonly-field` class for name/email display

## Visual Design Philosophy

Aligned with **Wikipedia-style** design principles:

- Minimal borders and shadows
- Subtle colors (grey borders, blue accents)
- Sharp corners (2-3px radius instead of 6-12px)
- Clear hierarchy without heavy styling
- Focus on content, not decoration

## Testing Checklist

- Remove button-like appearance from verification question
- Simplify form field styling
- Clean up spacing and margins
- Update button design
- Improve read-only field display
- Simplify success/error messages
- Ensure semantic HTML
- No linting errors
- Test on localhost:2025
- Verify mobile responsiveness
- Test form submission
- Test with logged-in user

## Files Modified

1. `/css/contact.css` - Complete redesign for cleaner aesthetic

2. `/contact.php` - Semantic HTML improvements, class additions

## Result

The contact form now has: ✓ Cleaner, less cluttered appearance

✓ Clear distinction between question (text) and answer field (input)

✓ Wikipedia-inspired design aesthetic

✓ Better visual hierarchy

✓ Reduced cognitive load for users

✓ Improved accessibility with semantic HTML