A Brief cforms CSS Guide

This guide is merely meant to give you a jump-start. The shown form images are based on the “comprehensive-demo-form.txt”, which reside in the plugins /styling directory.

Documentation flow is based on the content (top-down) of cforms.css, and is not depicted in chronological or a per element order!

**NOTE:** As of v4.5, all **labels** have a unique ID for even more design control: e.g. `label-3-10`

```css
/* DEFAULT THEME cforms.css */
/* main 'top-level' form elements */

.cform {
    margin:10px auto 50px auto;
    width: 410px;
}

.cform fieldset {
    margin-top:10px;
    padding:5px 0 15px 0;
    border:1px solid #adadad;
    border-left-color:#ececec;
    border-top-color:#ececec;
    background:#f7f7f7;
}

.cform legend {
    margin-left:10px;
    padding:0 2px;
    font:normal 20px Times;
}

ol.cf-ol {
    margin:0;
    padding:0;
}

ol.cf-ol li {
    margin:5px 0!important;
    padding:0;
    list-style:none;
    text-align:left;
}

p.cf-sb {
    margin: 0;
}

.cform input.sendbutton {
    width:100px;
    padding:2px;
    margin: 10px 0 0 310px;
    font-size:0.8em;
    background:url(../images/button-bg.gif) repeat-x;
    border:1px solid #adadad!important;
}

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/* just for text-only fields (no input) */

ol.cf-ol li.textonly {
  padding:3px 0;
  text-align:center;
}

/* global definitions for field labels */

cform label {
  width:90px;
  margin:2px 10px 0 0;
  display: -moz-inline-box;
  text-align:right;
  vertical-align:top;
}

cform label span {
  width:90px;
  display:block;
}

label.cf-before {
  margin:0 10px 0 0;
}

label.cf-after {
  margin:0 0 0 6px;
  width:200px;
  text-align:left;
}

cform label span {
  width:200px;
  display:block;
}

cform label span {
  width:200px;
  display:block;
}
text-only, no class or style associated other than the default

Standard Items

Msg goes to

Email

Subject

Message

Check and Radio Boxes

Left Label

Only

☐ Right Label and "required"

A Few Radio Buttons

☐ Radio 1

☐ Radio 2

☐ Radio 3

Check Box Groups!

Grouped Check Boxes

☐ A Wider Item

☐ Item3

☐ Item4

Drop Down Boxes

Select One

Select Many

Select One

Make your choice!

That

Other

Visitor Verification

What color is snow?

Your Code

Send Options

Attach a file?

Browse...

CC: me

please

Submit

/* FORM FIELDS general formatting */

/* */

.cform input,
.cform textarea,
.cform select {
  padding: 1px 3px;
  background: #f9f9f9;
  border: 1px solid #888888;
}

.cform input:hover,
.cform textarea:hover,
.cform select:hover {
  background: #CEDDDF;
}

.cform input:focus,
.cform textarea:focus,
.cform select:focus {
  background: #F3F8F8;
}

.cform textarea,
.cform input {
  width: 150px;
}

.cform select {
  width: 158px;
}

.cform select.cfselectmulti {
  height: 7.5em;
}

.cform textarea {
  overflow: auto;
}

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text-only, no class or style associated other than the default

### Standard Items

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Field</th>
<th>Value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Msg goes to</td>
<td>Jane</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Email</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Subject</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Message</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Check and Radio Boxes

#### Left Label
- Only
  - Right Label and "required"

#### A Few Radio Buttons
- Radio 1
- Radio 2
- Radio 3

### Check Box Groups!

#### Grouped Check Boxes
- A Wider
- Narrow
- Item
- Item3
- Item4
- Item5

### Drop Down Boxes

#### Select One
- Make your choice!

#### Select Many
- Thin
- That
- The Other

### Visitor Verification

**What color is snow?**

**Your Code**

RAQKG

### Send Options

**Attach a file?**

**CC:** me please

Submit
/* formatting for invalid user inputs */

.cform .error {
  color:red!important;
  border:1px solid #FF0000!important;
  padding:1px 3px;
}

.cform .errortxt {
  color:red!important;
}

/* 'visitor verification' related styles */

label.seccap {
  margin-top:6px;
}

label.secq, label.secq span {
  margin-top:2px;
  width:194px;
}

input.secinput {
  width:45px;
  margin:3px 0 0 0;
  vertical-align:top;
}

#cforms_captcha {
  height:15px;
  width:50px;
  padding:4px 4px;
  margin:0;
}

img.captcha {
  margin:0 0 0 10px;
  padding:0;
  border:none;
}

/* change formatting of response msgs here */

p.info {
  margin:10px 0;
  text-align:center;
}

p.success {
  color:green;
}

p.failure {
  color:red;
}

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cforms Layout Development, Best Practices

First off, I suggest you install Firefox, if not as your best new “friend” at least for web development. In addition get Firebug (https://addons.mozilla.org/en-US/firefox/addon/1843), a most useful tool that helps you identify your HTML elements and change CSS on the fly!

Screenshot of Firefox + Firebug in action:

Here is how I troubleshoot/test new CSS layouts:

1. Click on Inspect
2. Hover over your elements and click the one you need to modify
3. On the right you’ll now see the corresponding CSS information (based on current theme)
4. Click on any attribute (right side: e.g. padding: ) and modify the values
5. Changes will take effect immediately

Even though you won’t be able to directly modify the actual CSS theme file, it saves you tons of time and allows you to play around with the CSS definitions until you get it looking right.

With Firebug, you actually don’t really need this guide since it makes it so easy to come up with your own great looking designs just by trial and error.