

Optimizing Subscription Conversion with One-Click Purchase Overlay

competitionline.com

+55%
Trial starts

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Case Study - competitionline.com

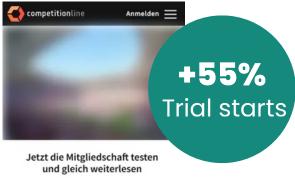
One-Click Purchase Overlay

Competitionline is a platform where architecture and construction competitions are published. Architects can find calls for entries, results, job opportunities, and editorial articles on current topics in architecture and urban planning. Studios and firms can also showcase their projects and compare themselves with others.

Initial situation

The locked article pages on Competitionline represent the highest-traffic area for users. Currently, users are required to go through a popup to select a subscription plan, fill out a form, and then complete the subscription process. The process requires several steps, and many users already have the necessary information to quickly fill out the form. The test aimed to simplify the process by allowing users to complete the subscription and gain immediate access to content with just one click.

Performance results are shown in relative terms to ensure confidentiality.









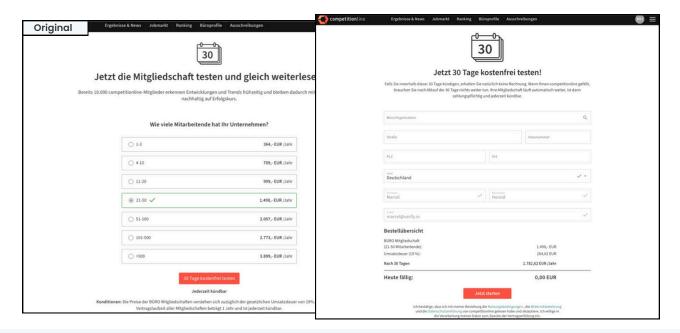


Test results

If users are given the option to start their trial and complete the subscription with a single click directly on the locked article pages,

then the trial starts will increase,

because reducing friction and providing immediate access to content at the start of the trial will enhance user engagement



Changes: Several steps were merged into one overlay, with prefilled data for logged-in users.







Test setup

The primary goal of the experiment was to **increase conversion rates** by simplifying the subscription process. By reducing friction and allowing users to start their trial with a single click, the test aimed to improve subscription efficiency and foster deeper user engagement.

This objective directly aligns with Competitionline's broader performance metric: optimizing the user journey to maximize trial starts and subscription conversion.

Hypothesis Development

If users are given the option to start their trial and complete the subscription with a single click directly on the locked article pages, the trial starts will increase.

This is based on the idea that reducing friction and offering immediate content access will create a seamless experience, which encourages users to engage more quickly and commit to the full subscription.

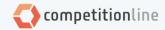
Segmentation and Target Audience

The test was focused on users visiting locked article pages across all industries and content types on Competitionline. Given the high volume of traffic to these pages, a strategic approach was taken to monitor the results closely throughout the experiment.

Both new and returning users were included to reflect the full user base and ensure the results were applicable across different user types.

Test Duration and Traffic Allocation

The experiment ran until statistical significance was reached. Traffic was evenly split between control and variation (50/50) to ensure reliable and comparable data.





Technical Implementation

The experiment was implemented using **Varify**, chosen for its affordable and scalable pricing model – an important factor for businesses looking for a reliable solution to run A/B tests with ease and flexibility.

Integration with Existing Systems

The integration of the experiment into Competitionline's existing infrastructure was efficient and straightforward. Thanks to close collaboration with Varify's support team, the setup process was completed quickly, ensuring that the testing phase could start without any delays. Continuous support and clear communication made it easy to integrate the solution seamlessly into the platform.

Variation Creation and Deployment

Given the dynamic nature of the content on the locked article pages, the test was implemented through custom JavaScript. This approach ensured high stability and precision, which were essential for achieving accurate results. By directly manipulating the DOM, we maintained full control over the user interface, ensuring smooth deployment and eliminating any potential rendering issues.

Monitoring and Data Collection

All experiment data was captured in Matomo with Varify's integration. To give stakeholders a clearer overview, a Looker Studio dashboard was created to visualize key data points and funnel performance.





Conclusion

The test reached **98% significance** and confirmed the hypothesis: simplifying the subscription process with a one-click trial start directly on the locked article pages increased trial starts and conversion rates.

The experiment included **2,714 visitors**, with a total of **86 trial starts**. The variation outperformed the control in all key metrics related to user engagement and conversion. As a result, the new process was rolled out to 100% of users, significantly improving the overall user experience and streamlining the subscription flow.

Key Learnings and Insights

- **Reducing Friction Drives Conversion:** The simpler, quicker process led to a noticeable increase in conversion rates, demonstrating that reducing steps in the user journey encourages immediate action.
- Immediate Access to Content is Key: Users valued immediate
 access to content at the start of the trial, reinforcing the emotional
 value of quick gratification and reducing any hesitations at the point
 of decision-making.
- Simplified Subscription Process: The streamlined one-click subscription process removed unnecessary steps, making it easier for users to begin their trial and increasing overall engagement.

Final Takeaways

This experiment highlighted the importance of simplifying the subscription process and offering immediate rewards. By reducing friction and providing instant access to content, users were more likely to start their trial and complete the subscription.

The success of this test unlocked a powerful opportunity to optimize the user journey further and increase conversion rates through additional experimentation on the subscription flow and trial start experience.



