Pros and Cons of payment plugins within WordPress.

With all the payment plugin options available on WordPress, I narrowed down a select few that would fill the requirements for GameSafe. When looking at these plugins, the main criteria was the ease of use, pricing, functionality, support for subscription based payment. Through my research, I found three plugins that would meet our criteria for a subscription based payment system WooCommerce, WPForms, and Fluent Forms.

WooCommerce was the first plugin I stumbled upon as it is easily the most popular ecommerce plugin on WordPress. WooCommerce is an ecommerce plugin with over 5+ million active installations. One of the big draws to using WooCommerce is its pricing. Currently, the WooCommerce core is completely free. However, some plugins and extensions do have a cost. Additionally, Setup is very easy and user-friendly. There are also detailed reports as well as being SEO friendly. Lastly, WooCommerce is one of the most customizable ecommerce platform which is great for if you want to expand later in the future. Some of the downsides to using WooCommerce are technical support and security. As with most open source software, WooCommerce comes with limited technical support and getting a response might be slow. Furthermore, because WooCommerce operates on a self-hosted website, security is mostly our responsibility but we can use some built-in security features from WordPress as well as payment gateways to reduce the risk. Overall, WooCommerce seems like a really great choice if you want a full store and provides a lot of flexibility to our website.

Next on the list is WPForms. Initially, WPForms is a plugin for creating contact forms but has functionality for taking payments. WPForms is also the most popular form builder with 4+ million active installations. With WPForms, there are two options, lite and pro. With the lite version, there is no option to enter a credit card so we will mostly likely need the pro version which has an annual cost of $200.00. With the pro version you get access to popular payment gateways like PayPal and Stripe as well as all of the fancy fields to match what we need. Additionally, one of the main draws of WPForms is its ease of use. Compared to WooCommerce, WPForms is a lot easier to implement and get setup. WPForms also has a lot of support when it comes to add-ons and other extensions. Some of the downsides of using WPForms is the cost and flexibility. Again, the annual cost for using WPForms pro version is $200.00 which will give us access to the features we will need. Lastly, WPForms doesn’t have a lot of flexibility. Its main use is contact forms but has the ability to accept payments. Similar to WooCommerce, we will also need to implement security on our own to handle credit card payments. Overall, WPForms is a great choice if you want to get something up and quickly although it might not be the best long term solution if you plan on scaling up.

Lastly, we have Fluent Forms. Similar to WPForms, Fluent Forms is a contact form plugin with subscription based payment support. Fluent Forms also has around 80k active installations. What separates Fluent Forms apart from WPForms is its Dynamic Payment Summary feature and pricing. For pricing, Fluent Forms is free but lacks a lot of needed features so you will likely have to go with the paid option. The paid option is a lot more cost effective as you only pay a $60 licensing fee once. When it comes to value for your money Fluent Forms is most likely a better option than WPForms but also isn’t as flexible when it comes to functionality. Overall, Fluent Forms is a cheaper option and will get the job done quickly for implementing subscription based payment but doesn’t have the same amount of support as WPForms.

When it comes to the three plugins, WooCommerce, WPForms, and Fluent Forms, There is a lot to consider. Ultimately, we should look at what the end goal should be and choose a plugin that will lead us there. If you’re looking for something simple, WPForms or Fluent Forms would be a great choice but it doesn’t have the same flexibility as WooCommerce. If you are looking for something more robust and intricate, WooCommerce has that option and thrives as an ecommerce plugin. In conclusion, the choice relies on where we are headed for the payment process.