

What is Videomail?


With this add-on recording and sending videos in Wordpress finally comes true. No further coding required. Just install + configure a bit (like duration, width or enable audio etc) and that's all. Wicked.

Setup Videomail

1. Download Videomail from your NinjaForms.com account and install it using “Plugins” -> “Add New” -> “Upload” in your WordPress dashboard
2. Activate Ninja Forms – Videomail on your “Plugins” page

Adding Videomail to your form


3. First we recommend you to build a Ninja Form, the usual way, with some form fields. In this example, we will refer to the default contact form Ninja Form comes with.
4. Open that default contact form:


 **NINJA**FORMS

Forms Apps & Integrations Memberships

ADD NEW

Search Forms

TITLE	SHORTCODE	DATE CREATED
Contact Me	[ninja_form id=1]	08/24/16 4:39 PM 




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✕

Form Fields



Emails & Actions



Advanced



Preview Form 



PUBLISH



Contact Me

 Name *
 


 Email *
 

 Message *
 

 Submit
 

- Click on the Plus icon to add a new form field:
- Click on the “Videomail” form field and drag it between the Email and Message inputs:



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✕



Form Fields



Emails & Actions



Advanced


Contact Me

 Name *
 

 Email *
 

 Message *
 


 Submit
 


 Filter


DONE


SAVED FIELDS


COMMON FIELDS


 Single Checkbox


 Date


 Checkbox List


 Multi-Select


 Radio List

 Select


 Submit


 Paragraph Text


 Single Line Text


 Videomail


USER INFORMATION FIELDS



 Address


 City

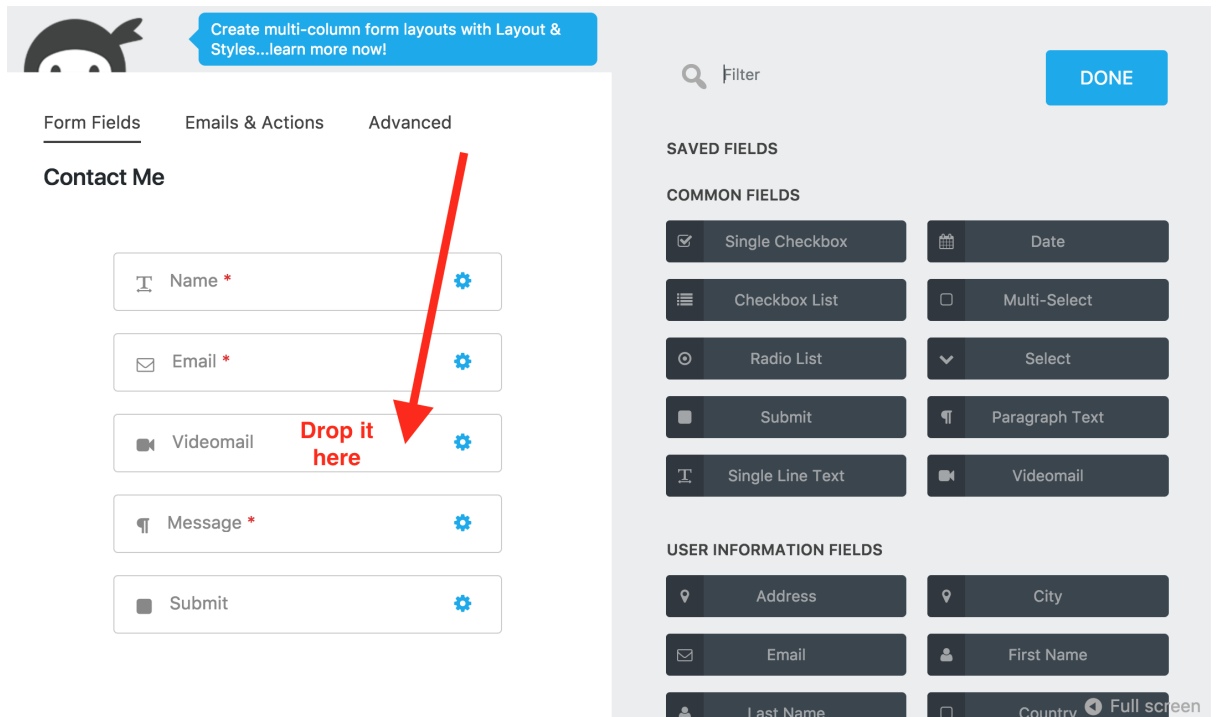
 Email

 First Name

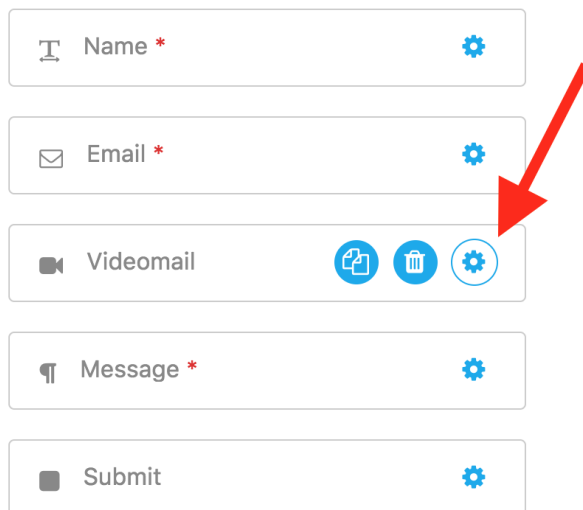
 Last Name

 Country  Full screen





7. Now click on the configure icon:

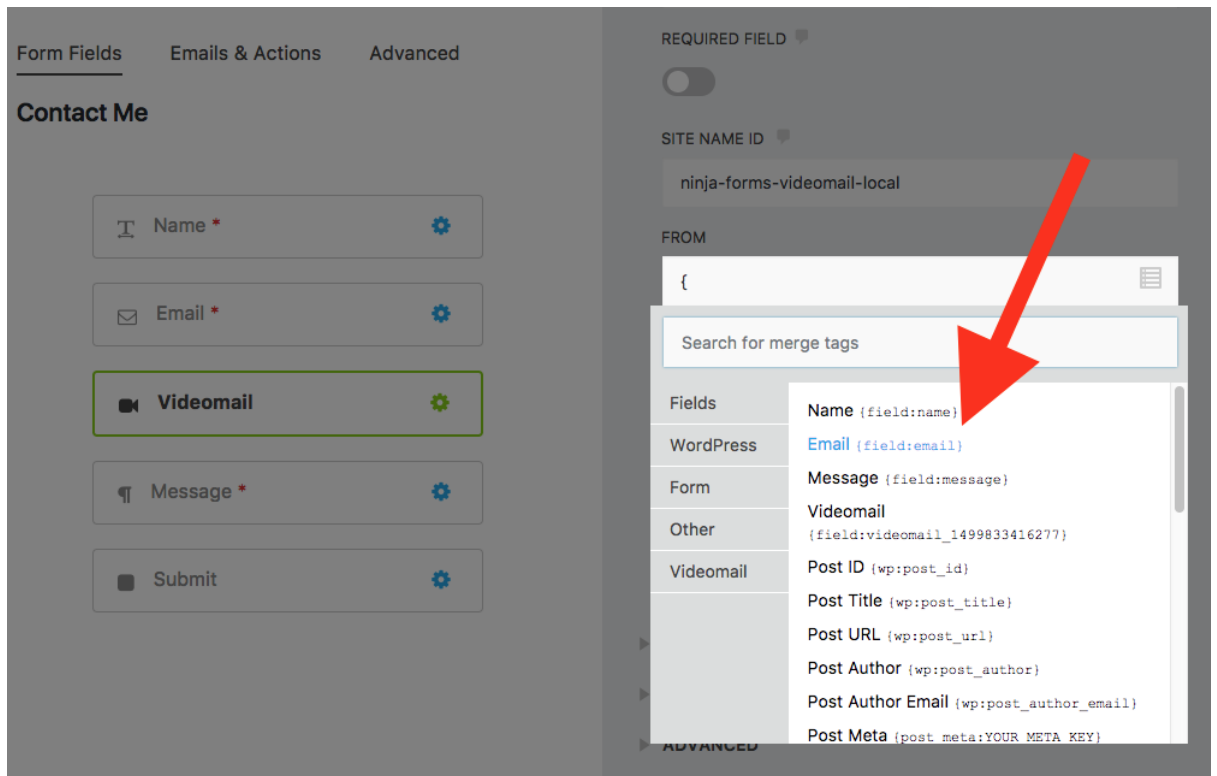


8. Then you will see lots of configuration options:


The screenshot displays the Ninja Forms configuration interface. On the left, the 'Form Fields' tab is active, showing a list of fields for the 'Contact Me' form: 'Name', 'Email', 'Videomail' (highlighted with a green border), 'Message', and 'Submit'. Each field has a settings gear icon. A blue banner at the top left reads 'Create multi-column form layouts with Layout & Styles...learn more now!'. On the right, the 'Videomail' configuration panel is shown, featuring a 'DONE' button at the top right. The panel includes sections for 'LABEL' (set to 'Videomail'), 'LABEL POSITION' (set to 'Form Default'), 'REQUIRED FIELD' (a toggle switch), 'SITE NAME ID' (set to 'ninja-forms-videomail-local'), and email configuration fields for 'FROM', 'TO', 'SUBJECT', and 'BODY'. Each of these email fields has a search icon. At the bottom, there are expandable sections for 'RESTRICTIONS', 'DISPLAY', 'ADVANCED', and 'ADMINISTRATION'. A 'Full screen' button is located at the bottom right of the configuration panel.

9. We will explain all these options in another section further below. For now, let's focus only on the most important four: FROM, TO, SUBJECT and BODY.

Every email needs these so that the video can be sent like an email (hence the name Videomail). Therefore we link the FROM option with the Email input (aka merge tag):



10. For the TO field, we will pick the admin email merge tag, for the subject we type a custom text and the body will be linked to the message form field like that:



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Form Fields
Emails & Actions
Advanced

Contact Me

Name *

Email *

Videomail

Message *

Submit

LABEL
Videomail

LABEL POSITION
Form Default

REQUIRED FIELD

SITE NAME ID
ninja-forms-videomail-local

FROM
{field:email}

TO
{wp:admin_email}

SUBJECT
A custom subject line for the email to be sent

BODY
{field:message}

RESTRICTIONS


DISPLAY

ADVANCED

ADMINISTRATION

Full screen

11. That's all. Now we want to test the form. Click on the DONE button at top:



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Form Fields
Emails & Actions
Advanced

Contact Me

Name *

Email *

Videomail

Message *

Submit

☆ Videomail

LABEL
Videomail

LABEL POSITION
Form Default

REQUIRED FIELD

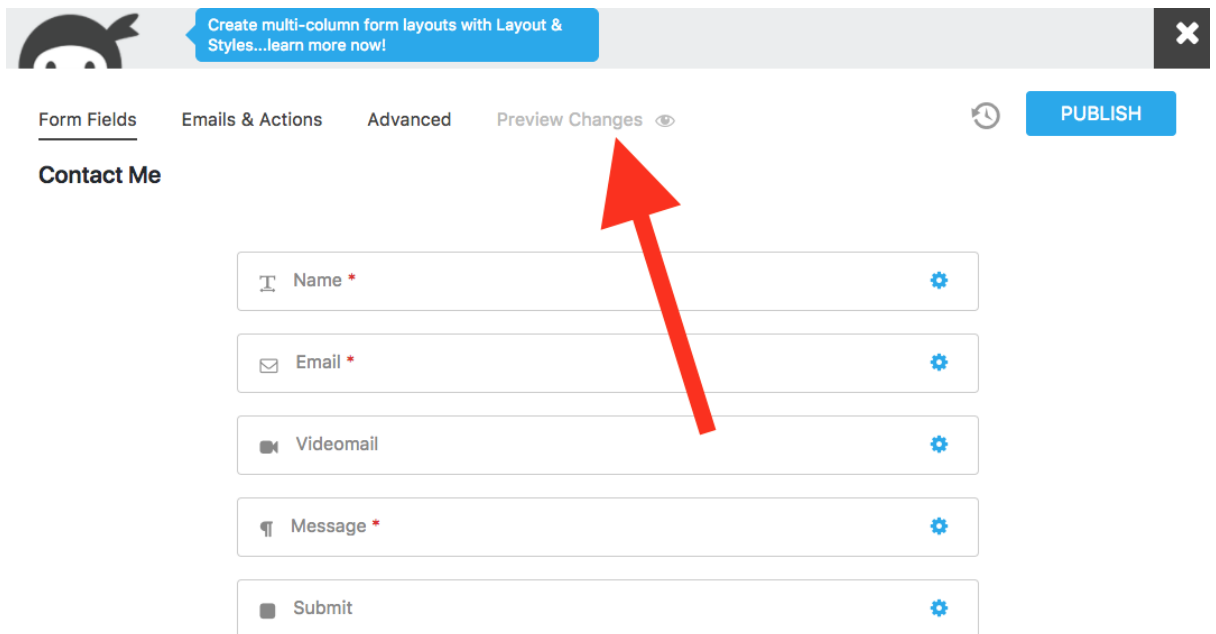
SITE NAME ID
ninja-forms-videomail-local

FROM
{field:email}

TO
{wp:admin_email}

SUBJECT
A custom subject line for the email to be sent

12. Then click on the Preview button:



The screenshot shows a web form builder interface. At the top, there is a header bar with a logo on the left, a blue banner with the text "Create multi-column form layouts with Layout & Styles...learn more now!", and a close button (X) on the right. Below the header, there is a navigation bar with tabs: "Form Fields", "Emails & Actions", "Advanced", and "Preview Changes" (which is highlighted with a red arrow). To the right of the "Preview Changes" tab is a clock icon and a blue "PUBLISH" button. Below the navigation bar, the form is titled "Contact Me". The form contains five fields: "Name *" (text input), "Email *" (text input), "Videomail" (video input), "Message *" (text area), and "Submit" (button). Each field has a gear icon for settings on the right side.

13. Now you see a preview of that form. Your browser will ask you to grant permission for the webcam. Click on the "Allow" button:

The screenshot shows a web application interface. At the top, there is a camera access prompt with a camera icon, the text "Use your camera", and two buttons: "Block" and "Allow". A large red arrow points from the "Allow" button towards the "Name" field. Below the prompt, there is an "Edit" link and a "Contact Me" heading. A note states "Fields marked with an * are required". The form includes three required fields: "Name *", "Email *", and "Message *", each with a corresponding text input box. Below the "Email" field, there is a "Videomail" section. This section contains a message box with a sad face icon, the text "Unable to access webcam", and instructions to click the "allow" button. Below this message box is a black "Record" button.

na Use your camera

Block Allow

Edit

Contact Me

Fields marked with an * are required

Name *

Email *

Videomail

☹ Unable to access webcam

Click on the allow button to grant access to your webcam.

Record

Message *

14. Once allowed, the plugin initialises the webcam and shows a live feedback in within few seconds and you can start recording. There are also the Pause, Resume, Stop and Record again buttons. Once you have stopped recording, the video gets encoded and a preview comes up:

Contact Me

Fields marked with an * are required

Name *

Michael Heuberger

Email *

michael.heuberger@binarykitchen.com

Videomail



▶ 0:02 / 0:02   

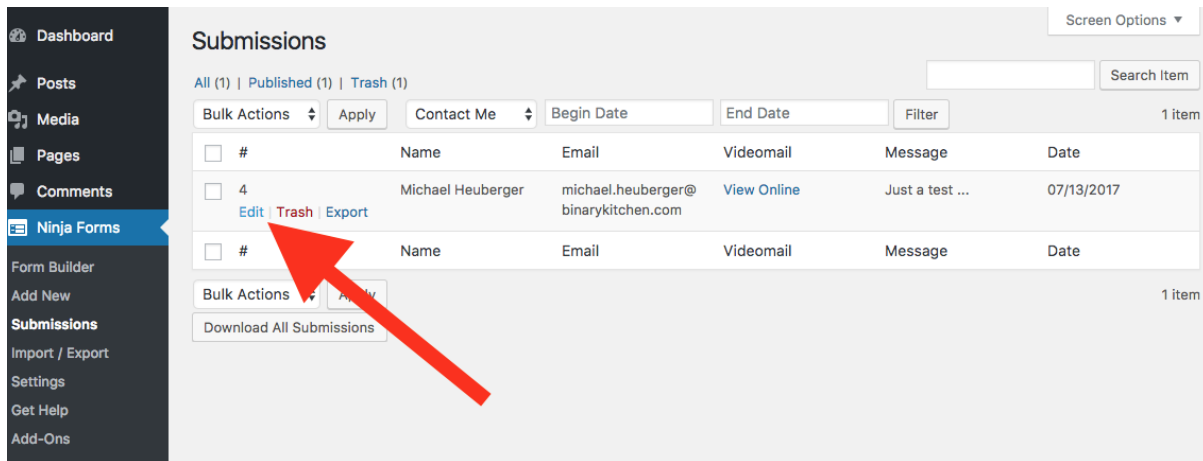
Record again

Message *

Just a test ...|

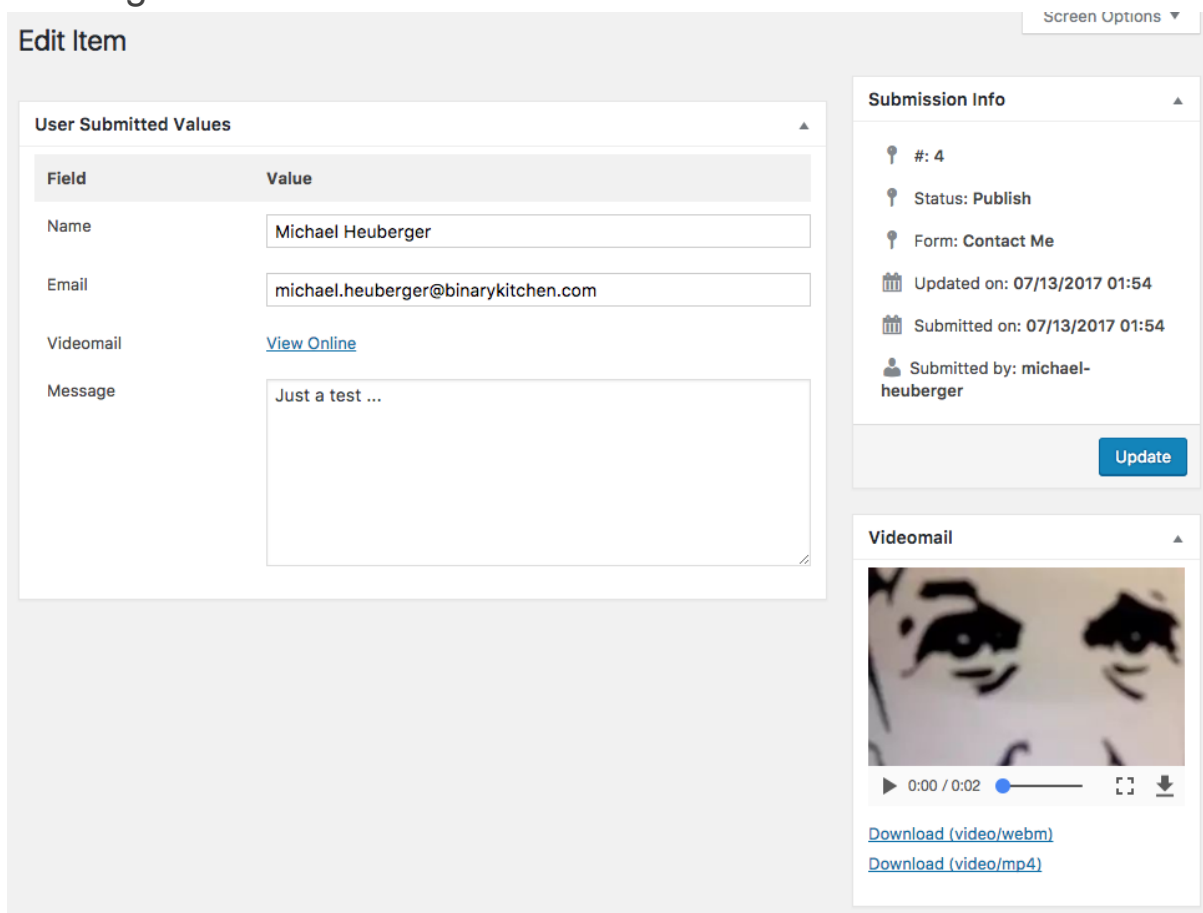
Submit

15. Once you have submitted that, you can check it out under Ninja Forms > Submissions in the navigation. Move the mouse over one row and click on Edit:



The screenshot shows the 'Submissions' page in the Ninja Forms dashboard. The left sidebar contains navigation links: Dashboard, Posts, Media, Pages, Comments, **Ninja Forms**, Form Builder, Add New, Submissions, Import / Export, Settings, Get Help, and Add-Ons. The main content area is titled 'Submissions' and includes filters for 'All (1)', 'Published (1)', and 'Trash (1)'. Below the filters is a table with columns: #, Name, Email, Videomail, Message, and Date. The first row shows submission #4 by Michael Heuberger, with a 'View Online' link. A red arrow points to the 'Edit' link in the row. Below the table are buttons for 'Bulk Actions', 'Apply', 'Contact Me', 'Begin Date', 'End Date', 'Filter', and 'Download All Submissions'.

16. Now you see all its details and can play the video on the right:



The screenshot shows the 'Edit Item' page for submission #4. The left sidebar contains navigation links: Dashboard, Posts, Media, Pages, Comments, **Ninja Forms**, Form Builder, Add New, Submissions, Import / Export, Settings, Get Help, and Add-Ons. The main content area is titled 'Edit Item' and includes a 'User Submitted Values' section with fields for Name, Email, Videomail, and Message. The 'Videomail' field has a 'View Online' link. To the right is a 'Submission Info' section with details: #4, Status: Publish, Form: Contact Me, Updated on: 07/13/2017 01:54, Submitted on: 07/13/2017 01:54, Submitted by: michael-heuberger. Below this is an 'Update' button. At the bottom right is a 'Videomail' section with a video player showing a close-up of a person's face. Below the video player are links for 'Download (video/webm)' and 'Download (video/mp4)'.

17. To reply on that videomail, you have two options: one is to click on the “View Online” link and reply there. Or the second one is to reply to the email notification the

administrator gets. In a future version we will add direct reply functionality.

Common Questions

“How can I send back a confirmation videomail to the user?”

Yeah, under Emails & Actions you can configure a summary to be sent back to the user including a link to the recorded video itself like that:

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Form Fields | **Emails & Actions** | Advanced

Video Contact Us

	NAME	TYPE	ACTIONS
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Save to Database	Store Submission	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Success Message	Success Message	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Confirmation Email back to User	Email	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Video Message to Administrator	Email	

Email

ACTION NAME
Confirmation Email back to User

TO
{field:from_email}

REPLY TO
{wp:admin_email}

SUBJECT
Confirmation for "{field:subject}"

EMAIL MESSAGE

Rich text editor toolbar: Bold, Italic, Underline, Link, Unlink, Bulleted List, Numbered List, Indent, Outdent, Undo, Redo, Full screen.

Your video message was sent successfully to {wp:admin_email}

Here again all the details of that video message:

First and Last Name	{field:from_name}
Your email	{field:from_email}
Subject	{field:subject}
Video Message URL	{videomail:url}
Message (text)	{field:message}

ADVANCED

FROM NAME
{wp:site_title}

FROM ADDRESS
{wp:admin_email}


FORMAT
HTML

CC

Full screen

“How can I include a videomail inside a Ninja Form Email?”

Likewise, under Emails & Actions too, you can notify the administrator with a Video Message in form of an Email. See this example for inspiration:



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Form Fields

Emails & Actions

Advanced

Video Contact Us

	NAME	TYPE	ACTIONS
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Save to Database	Store Submission	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Success Message	Success Message	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Confirmation Email back to User	Email	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Video Message to Administrator	Email	

Email

ACTION NAME

Video Message to Administrator

TO

{wp:admin_email}

REPLY TO

{field:from_email}

SUBJECT

{field:subject}

EMAIL MESSAGE

{field:subject}

{field:message}

You can view and reply to this videomail online at: <{videomail:url}>

Your humble servant, [videomail.id](#)

ADVANCED

FROM NAME

{field:from_name}

FROM ADDRESS

{field:from_email}

FORMAT

HTML

CC

BCC

ATTACH CSV

☐

“Why are the videomails linked to www.videomail.io?”

That’s where the videos are stored. Not on your local server. This for many reasons. Here a few to mention: encoding happens on server side and is very complex because different video types for different browsers are encoded, videos would eat too much of your

server's disk space and its code is written for node.js, not for WordPress' language PHP.

But you can switch on the "Save to Media Library" option (from v3.5 onwards) which will automatically download and move the video to your own server. Use it at your own risk, if you want to paste the video inside posts or pages.

"Why do the videos expire after 3 months and how can I keep them longer?"

Money :) A single video can take about 50 MB. Multiply this with a traffic of 1000 to be sent each week for example and you will need half a GB already. Hence the videomail server deletes the expired ones to free space. Over time we aim to expand disk space and to extend the life span.

To keep the videos forever, you could download them locally from the submission page, see picture of step #16 or enable the "Save To Media Library" option.

"Why is this very small videomail.io watermark always seen on videos in the bottom left corner, even when I have purchased the plugin?"

Yeah I'm afraid, even when you have paid, the watermark stays for a couple of good reasons. I've been coding hard, for 4 years, on this invention which is a world-first without getting anything in return.

My philosophy is to pass it onto others, at a low price and the watermark helps me to showcase my hard work. Ultimately it's about accessibility, to support Sign Language, my favorite language.

But I can imagine to remove it under following conditions;

- videomail is well known in near future and doesn't need the watermark any longer
- for an additional price or donation for my hard work

“I am a programmer, I want to interact directly with the Videomail API”

The pleasure is mine, the source code is open source, available on GitHub here <https://github.com/binarykitchen/videomail-client> and is also an npm package, see <https://www.npmjs.com/package/videomail-client>

All Options

General

Label	The title of that videomail form field. Could be "Video message" too. Up to you.
Label Position	The position of that label
Save to Media Library	New: enable it when you want the video to be automatically downloaded to your own server for reuse in posts or pages.
Required Field	Switch to tell whether a video must be recorded before you can submit the form. Or whether it's optional.
Site Name ID	<p>To prevent from abuse, each site using Videomail must have a Site Name ID. <i>ninja-forms-videomail-local</i> is the default ID which works for https://localhost, https://localhost:8080 and https://wp:8890 only.</p> <p>If you intend to run your site on different URLs, you'll need to whitelist them here https://videomail.io/whitelist</p>
From	The merge tag to fill the email FROM field (= sender). Without it, no videomail can be sent.
To	Another merge tag for the email TO field (= recipient). Here too, no videomail can be sent without it.
Subject	The merge tag for the email subject line. If none is given, an empty one is used for the email.
Body	This is not mandatory but it's nice to have some text in the videomail.

Restrictions

Limit Recording in Seconds	Here you can set a limit the video length in seconds.
Enable Audio (in Beta)	Yes, sound can be recorded too with this switch. Although it is rather in beta since bitrate and channels need fine-tuning. Stay tuned for improvements in future versions.

Display

Countdown Time	Set the countdown before recording starts. 3 seconds is the default. If you set to zero, then it will record asap on the press of the record button.
Video Width	Configure the width in pixels to match with the layout of your site.
Image Quality	Between 1 and 100% - impacts video quality in cost of bandwidth.

	40 is the recommended default.
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Advanced

Debug Mode	Only for programmers, for advanced use only.
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Administration

Field Key	Likewise, for advanced use only where you can create a unique key to identify and target your field for custom development.
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