

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

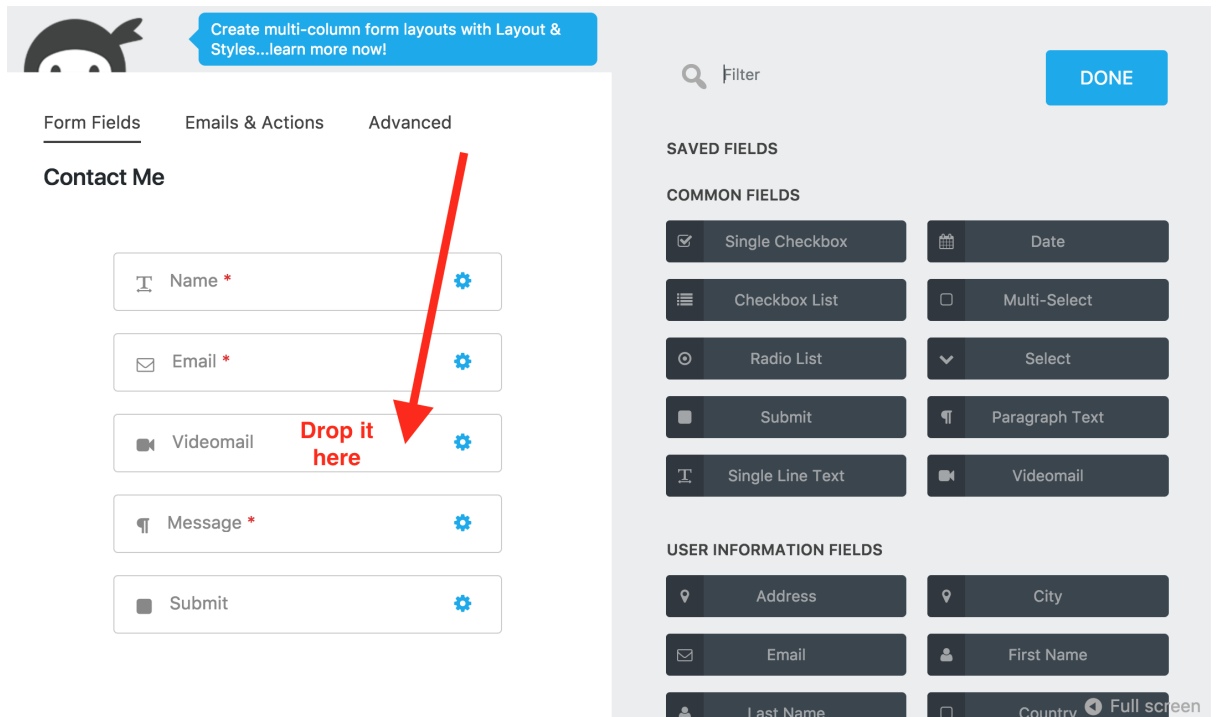
 City

 Email

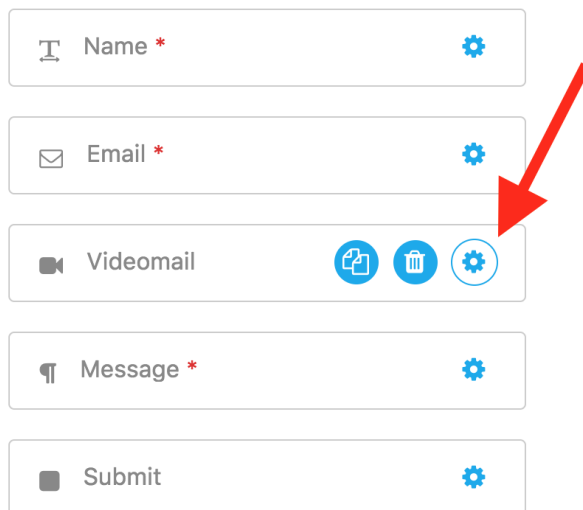
 First Name

 Last Name

 Country  Full screen



7. Now click on the configure icon:



8. Then you will see lots of configuration options:

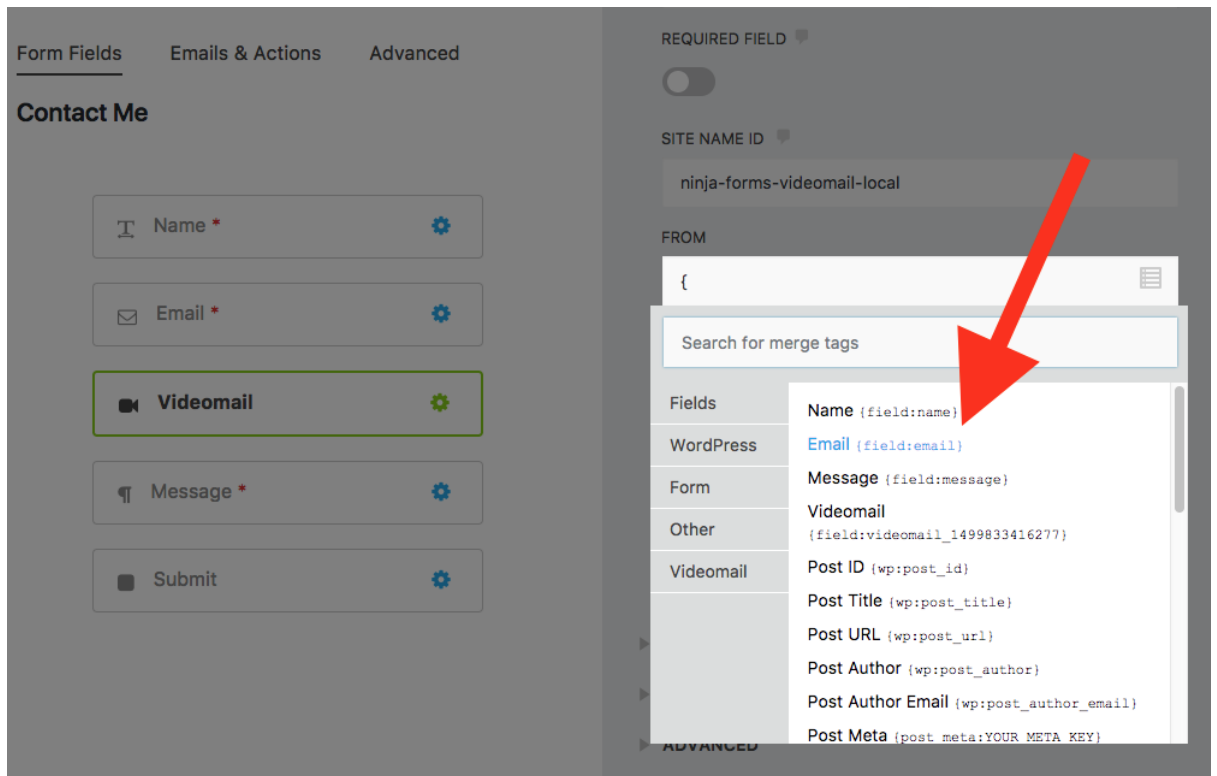
The screenshot displays the Ninja Forms configuration interface. On the left, the 'Form Fields' tab is active, showing a list of fields for the 'Contact Me' form: 'Name', 'Email', 'Videomail' (highlighted with a green border), 'Message', and 'Submit'. Each field has a gear icon for configuration. On the right, the 'Videomail' configuration panel is shown, featuring a 'DONE' button at the top right. The panel includes the following settings:

- LABEL:** Videomail
- LABEL POSITION:** Form Default (dropdown menu)
- REQUIRED FIELD:** Toggle switch (currently off)
- SITE NAME ID:** ninja-forms-videomail-local
- FROM:** Email address or search for a field (input field with a list icon)
- TO:** Email address or search for a field (input field with a list icon)
- SUBJECT:** Subject Text or search for a field (input field with a list icon)
- BODY:** Body Text or search for a field (input field with a list icon)
- RESTRICTIONS:** Expandable section
- DISPLAY:** Expandable section
- ADVANCED:** Expandable section
- ADMINISTRATION:** Expandable section

A 'Full screen' button is located at the bottom right of the configuration panel.

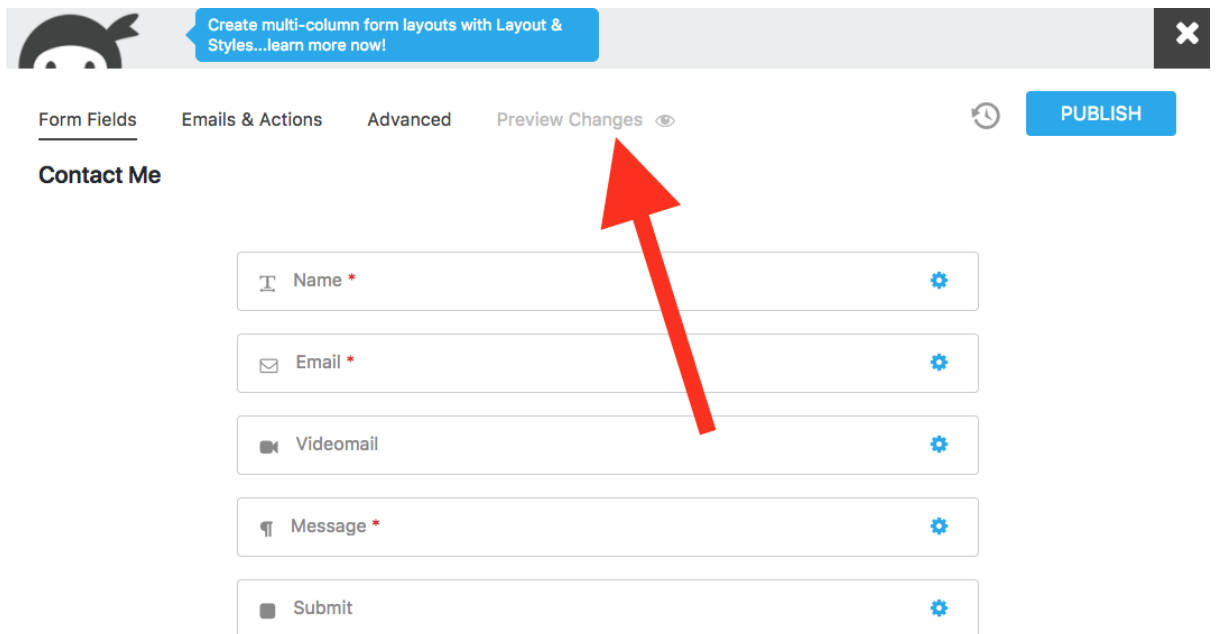
9. We will explain all these options in another section further below. For now, let's focus only on the most important four: FROM, TO, SUBJECT and BODY.

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):



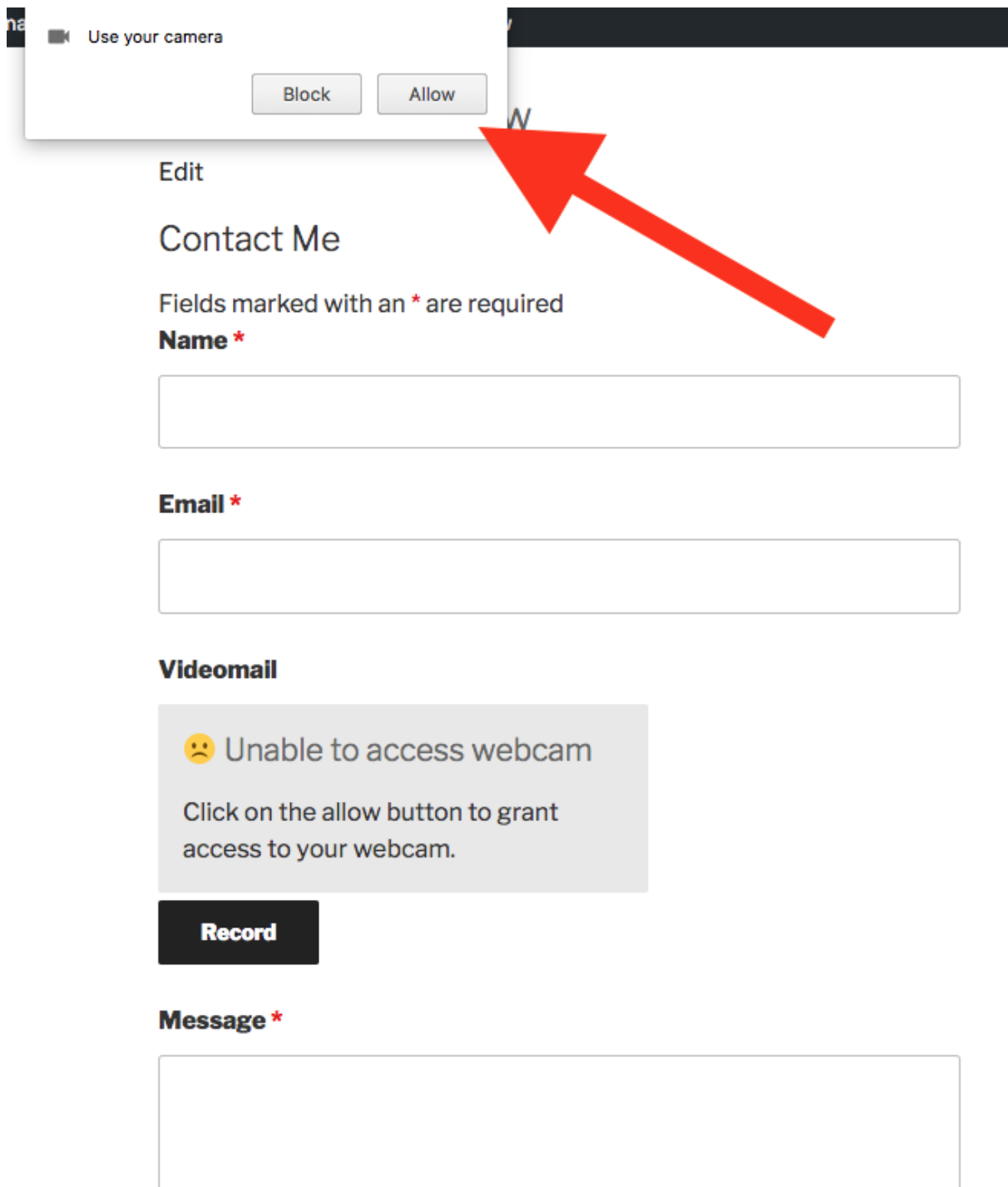
10. For the TO field, we will pick the admin email merge tag, for the subject we type a custom text and the body will be linked to the message form field like that:

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 that says "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 menu with four tabs: "Form Fields", "Emails & Actions", "Advanced", and "Preview Changes". The "Preview Changes" tab is selected and highlighted. To the right of the tabs is a clock icon and a blue "PUBLISH" button. Below the navigation menu, the form title "Contact Me" is displayed. The form itself consists of five stacked input fields: "Name *" (with a text icon), "Email *" (with an email icon), "Videomail" (with a video icon), "Message *" (with a message icon), and "Submit" (with a submit icon). Each field has a blue gear icon for settings on the right. A large red arrow points from the bottom right towards the "Preview Changes" tab.

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:



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

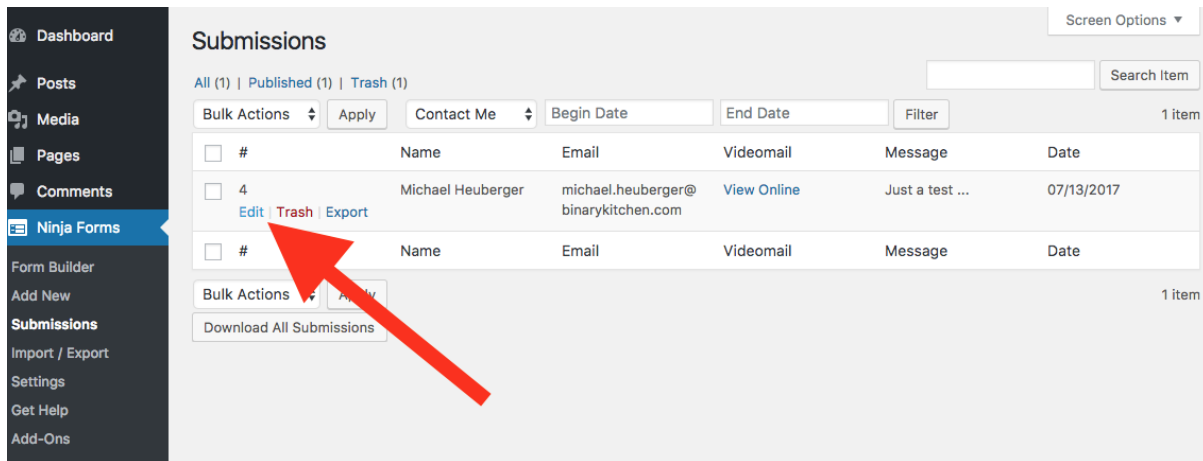
Record again

Message *

Just a test ...

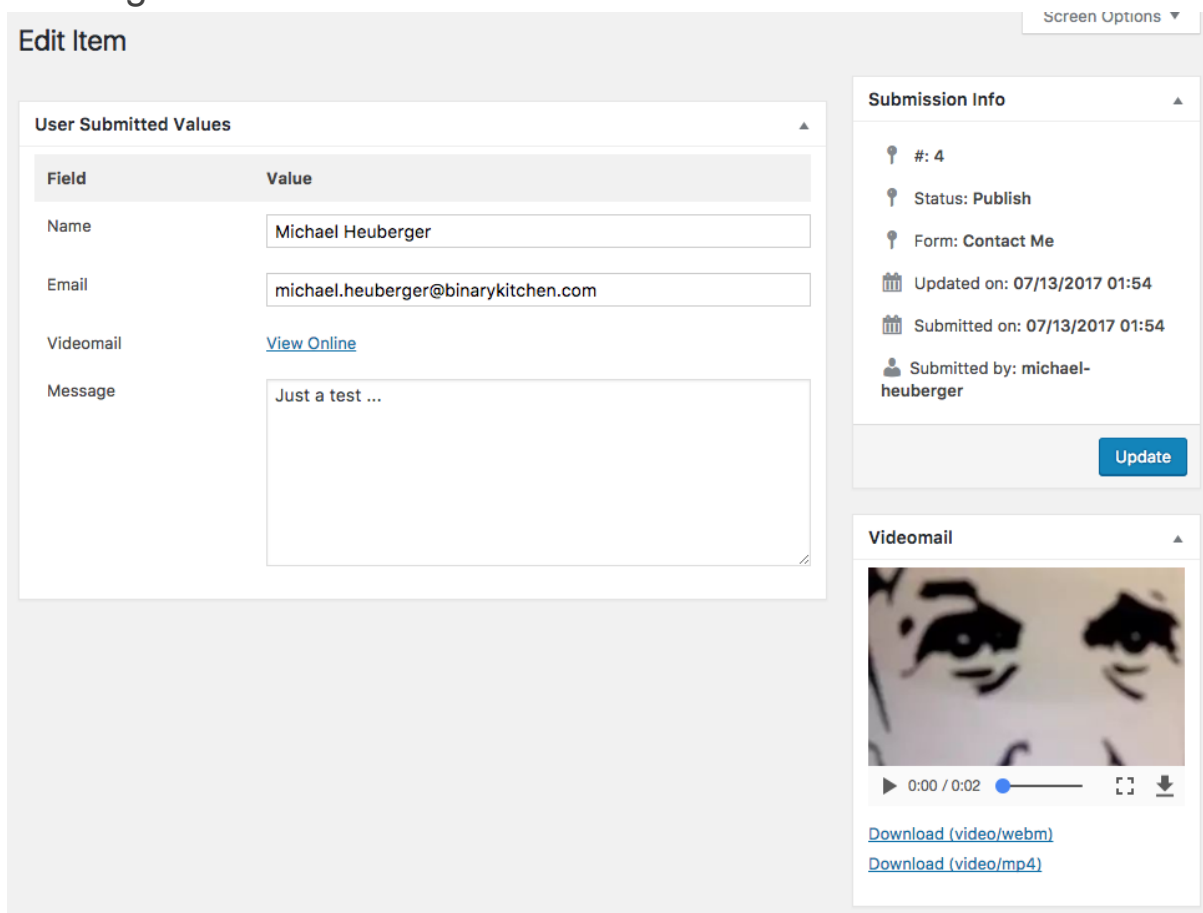
Submit

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 page is divided into two main sections. The left section, titled 'User Submitted Values', contains a table with fields and values: Name (Michael Heuberger), Email (michael.heuberger@binarykitchen.com), Videomail (View Online), and Message (Just a test ...). The right section, titled 'Submission Info', contains details about the submission: # (4), Status (Publish), Form (Contact Me), Updated on (07/13/2017 01:54), Submitted on (07/13/2017 01:54), and Submitted by (michael-heuberger). Below this is an 'Update' button. At the bottom right, there is a 'Videomail' section with a video player showing a close-up of a person's face. Below the video player are links to '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.

"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. |
|--|--------------------------------|

Advanced

| | |
|-------------------|--|
| Debug Mode | Only for programmers, for advanced use only. |
|-------------------|--|

Administration

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