

What is Videomail?

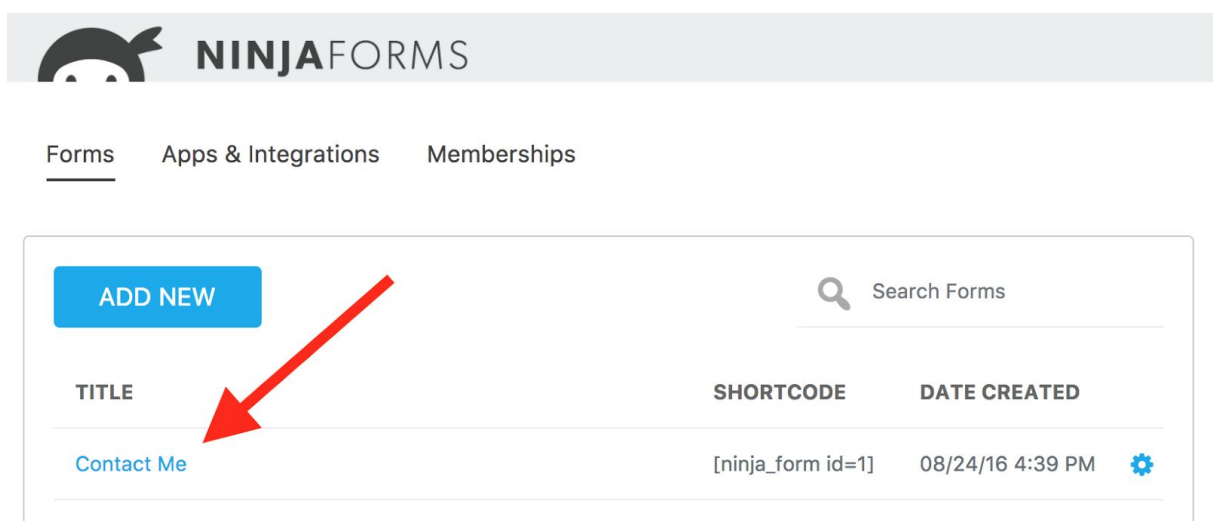
With this add-on recording and sending videos in Wordpress finally comes true. No further coding required. Just install + configure a bit (like duration, width or enable audio etc) and that's all. Wicked.

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:



5. Click on the Plus icon to add a new form field:

Create multi-column form layouts with Layout & Styles...learn more now!

Form Fields | Emails & Actions | Advanced | Preview Form

PUBLISH

Contact Me

Name *

Email *

Message *

Submit

+

6. 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

Checkbox List

Radio List

Submit

Single Line Text

Date

Multi-Select

Select

Paragraph Text

Videomail

USER INFORMATION FIELDS

Address

City

Email

First Name

Last Name

Country

Full screen

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Form Fields

Emails & Actions

Advanced

Contact Me

Name *

Email *

Videomail

Drop it here

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:

Name *

Email *

Videomail

Message *

Submit

8. Then you will see lots of configuration options:

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Form Fields Emails & Actions Advanced

Contact Me

- Name *
- Email *
- Videomail**
- Message *
- Submit

☆ Videomail

LABEL LABEL POSITION

Videomail Form Default

REQUIRED FIELD

☐

SITE NAME ID

ninja-forms-videomail-local

FROM

Email address or search for a field

TO

Email address or search for a field

SUBJECT

Subject Text or search for a field

BODY

Body Text or search for a field

► RESTRICTIONS

► DISPLAY

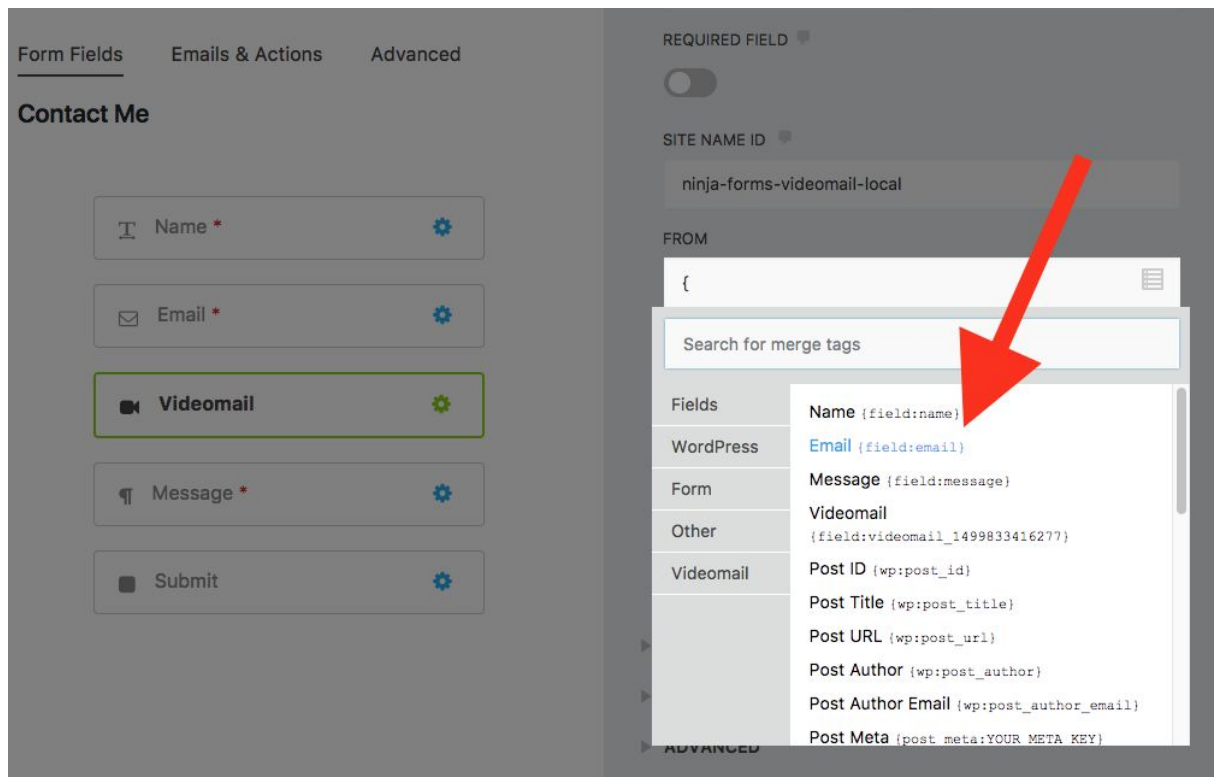
► ADVANCED

► ADMINISTRATION

Full screen

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

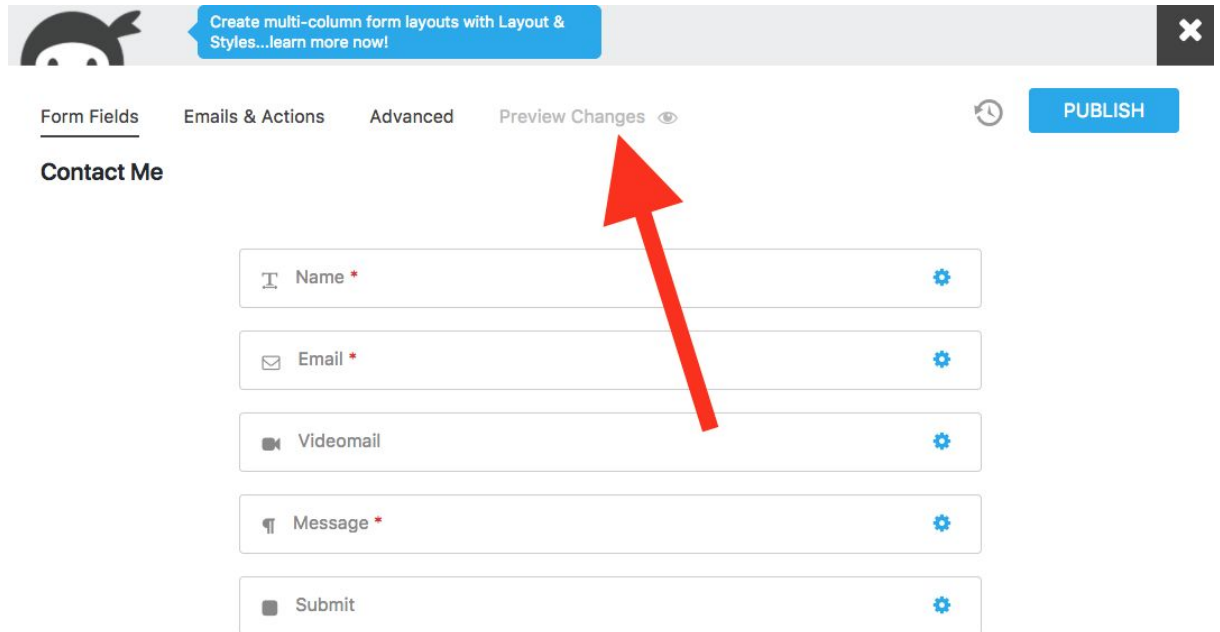
{wp:admin_email}

SUBJECT

A custom subject line for the email to be sent

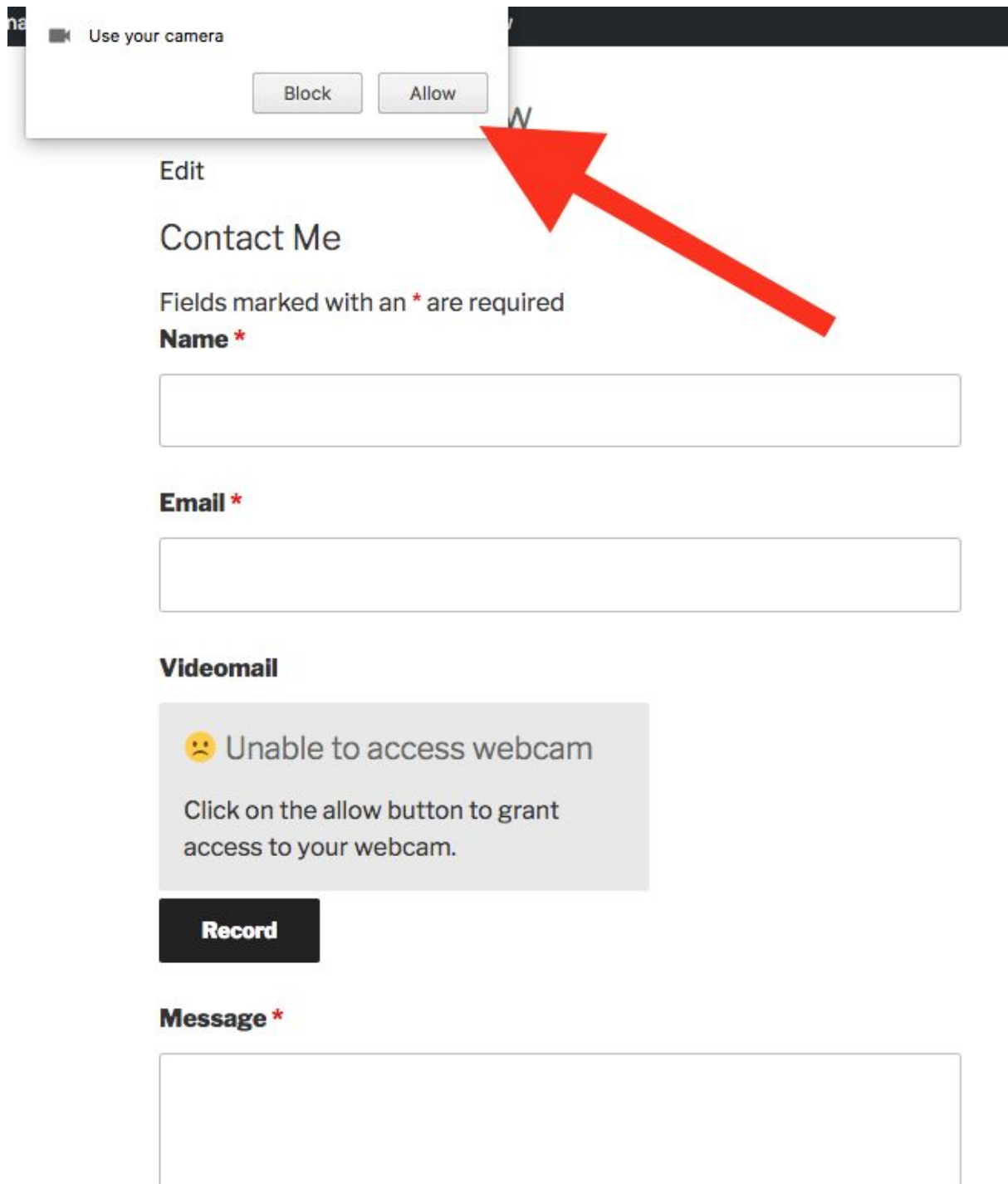
DONE

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 four tabs: "Form Fields", "Emails & Actions", "Advanced", and "Preview Changes". The "Preview Changes" tab is selected and highlighted. To the right of the "Preview Changes" tab is a circular refresh icon and a blue "PUBLISH" button. Below the navigation bar, the form title "Contact Me" is displayed. The form itself consists of five fields: "Name" (text input), "Email" (text input), "Videomail" (video input), "Message" (text area), and "Submit" (button). Each field has a blue gear icon to its right, indicating settings. A large red arrow points from the bottom towards the "Preview Changes" tab, indicating the action to be taken.

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 ⏮ ⏭ ⏴ ⏵

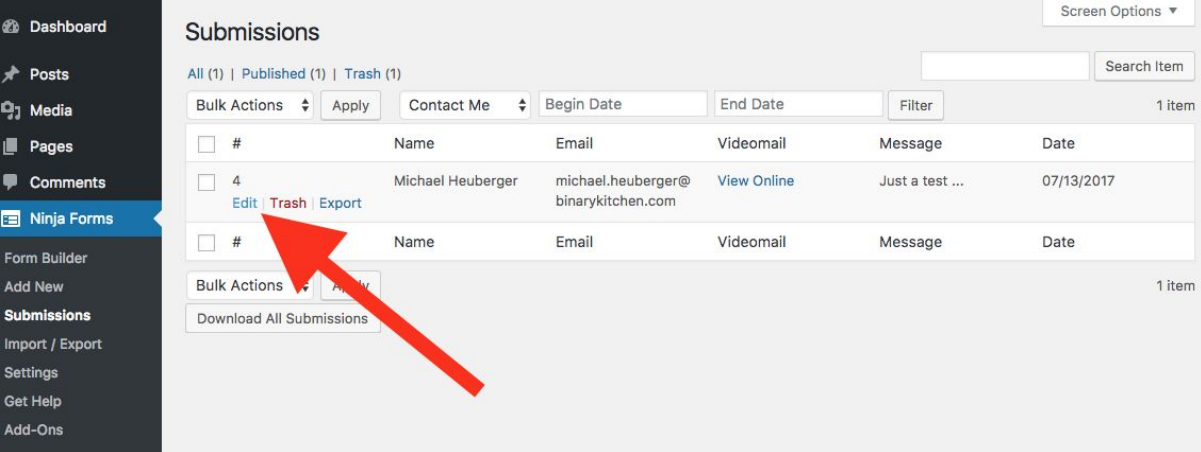
Record again

Message *

Just a test ...|

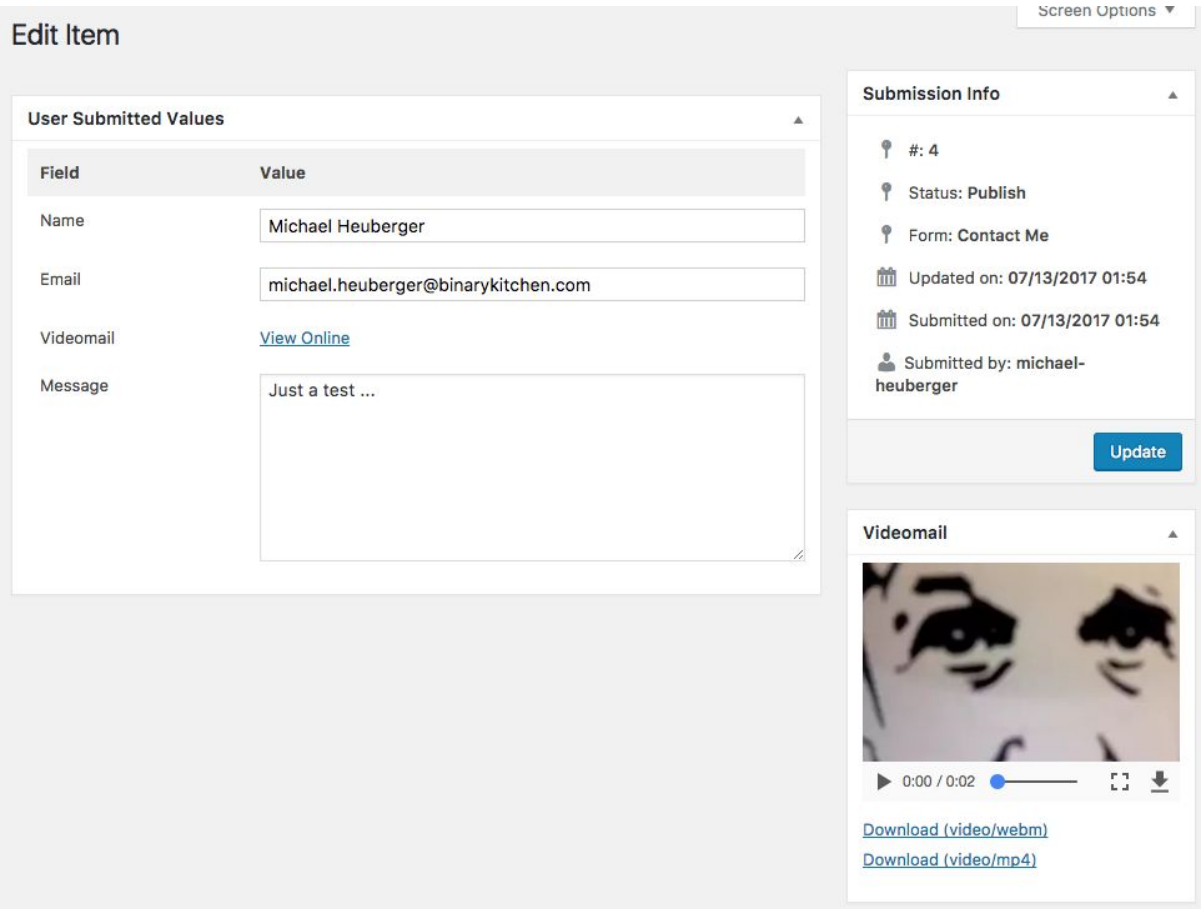
Submit

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's context menu. Below the table are bulk action buttons: 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 the following data:

| Field | Value |
|-----------|-------------------------------------|
| Name | Michael Heuberger |
| Email | michael.heuberger@binarykitchen.com |
| Videomail | View Online |
| Message | Just a test ... |

The right section, titled 'Submission Info', contains the following 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 the submission info is a video player showing a close-up of a person's face. The video player has a progress bar and a download button. Below the video player are two download links: [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:

The screenshot shows the 'Emails & Actions' configuration page for a 'Video Contact Us' form. On the left, a table lists four actions, with the third one, 'Confirmation Email back to User', highlighted in green. On the right, the configuration details for this email action are shown, including fields for Action Name, To, Reply To, Subject, and the email message body. The message body contains a success message and a summary of the video message details. The 'Advanced' section at the bottom allows for configuring the From Name, From Address, Format, and CC.

| | 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

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}

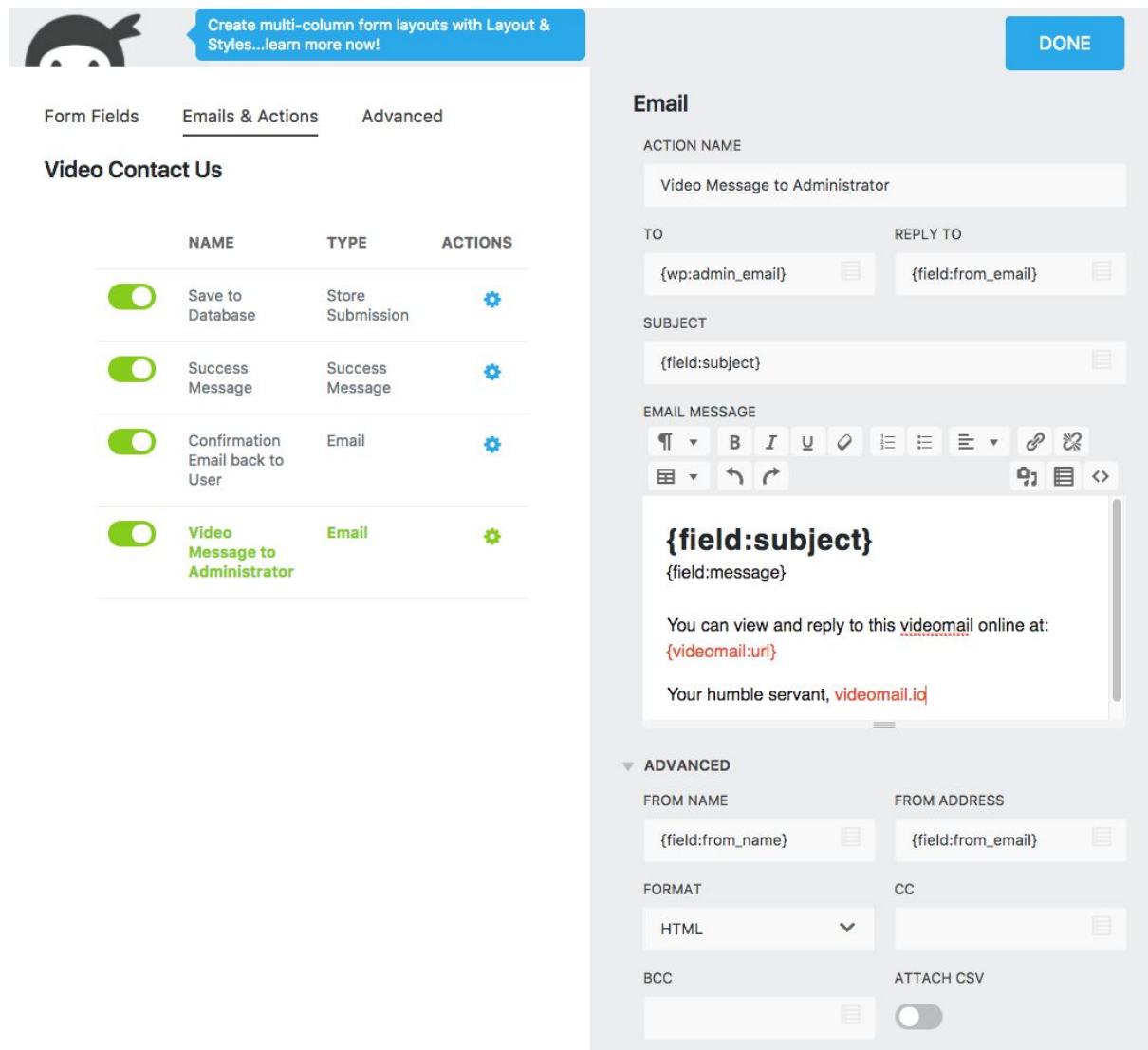
FROM ADDRESS
{wp:admin_email}

FORMAT
HTML

CC

“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:



Create multi-column form layouts with Layout & Styles...learn more now!

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.

"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.

"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 |
| 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. |

Advanced

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

Administration

| | |
|------------------|---|
| Field Key | Likewise, for advanced use only where you can a |
|------------------|---|