

# 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.

## Install Videomail Plugin

The usual way is:

1. Go to the **administration page** of your WordPress site.
2. Navigate to the **plugins page** and on top, click on the “Add Plugin button”.
3. Then a search field appears where you **run a search** for “Videomail”.
4. There it shows up under results and all you have to do is just to click on the “**Install**” button and to **activate** it. Simple.

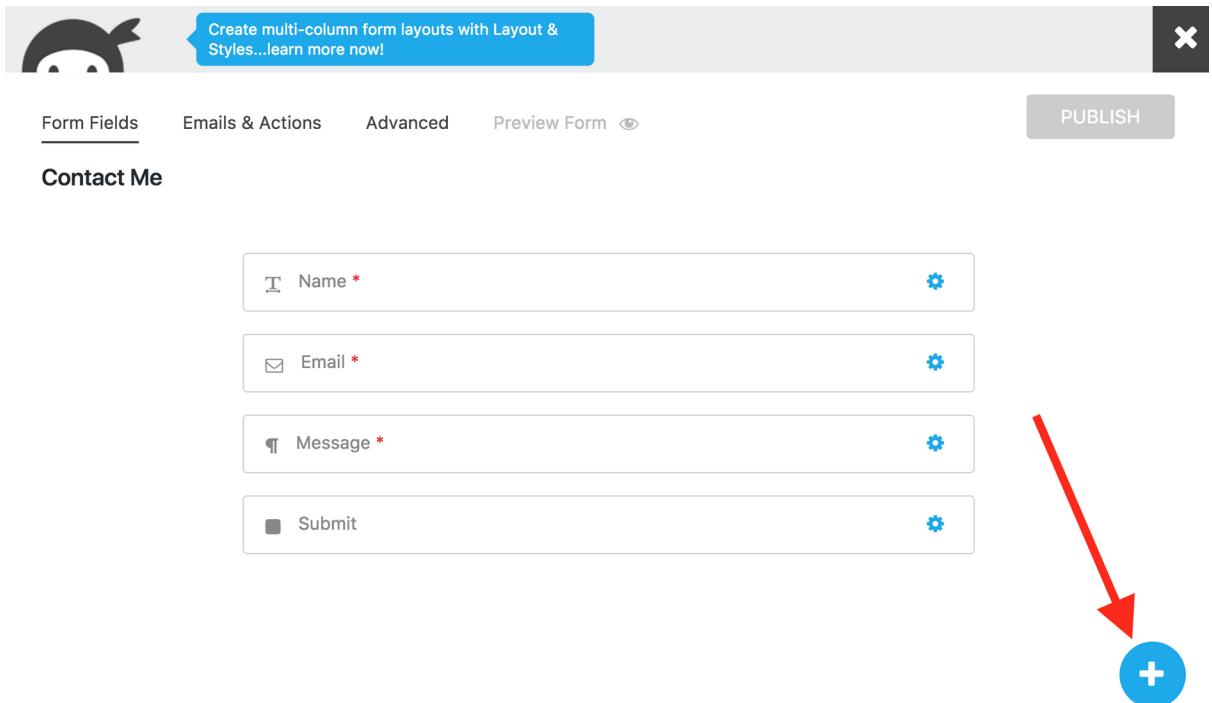
## Add Videomail to your Ninja Form

5. 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.
6. Open that default contact form:

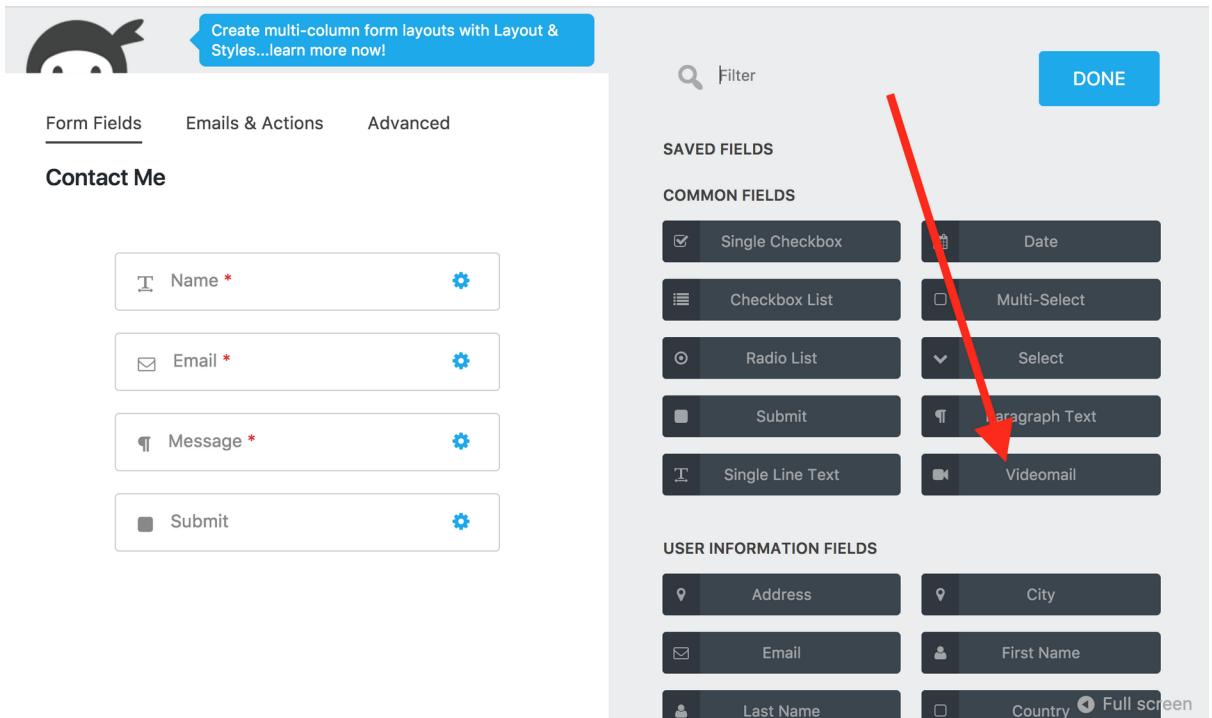
The screenshot shows the Ninja Forms dashboard. At the top, there is a navigation bar with tabs for 'Forms' (which is active), 'Apps & Integrations', and 'Memberships'. Below the navigation is a search bar labeled 'Search Forms'. On the left, a blue button says 'ADD NEW'. The main area displays a table with one row. The columns are 'TITLE', 'SHORTCODE', and 'DATE CREATED'. The 'TITLE' column contains the text 'Contact Me'. The 'SHORTCODE' column contains the code '[ninja\_form id=1]'. The 'DATE CREATED' column shows the date '08/24/16 4:39 PM'. A red arrow points from the text 'Contact Me' in the 'TITLE' column towards the 'ADD NEW' button.

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

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



8. Click on the “Videomail” form field and drag it between the Email and Message inputs:



The screenshot shows a form builder interface. On the left, there's a form titled "Contact Me" with fields: "Name \*", "Email \*", "Videomail" (with a red arrow pointing to it labeled "Drop it here"), "Message \*", and a "Submit" button. On the right, there's a sidebar titled "SAVED FIELDS" with sections for "COMMON FIELDS" and "USER INFORMATION FIELDS". The "COMMON FIELDS" section includes "Single Checkbox", "Date", "Checkbox List", "Multi-Select", "Radio List", "Select", "Submit", "Paragraph Text", "Single Line Text", and "Videomail". The "USER INFORMATION FIELDS" section includes "Address", "City", "Email", "First Name", "Last Name", and "Country". A "DONE" button is at the top right of the sidebar.

9. Now click on the configure icon:

The screenshot shows the same "Contact Me" form as above, but now each field has a blue gear icon to its right. A large red arrow points to the gear icon next to the "Videomail" field.

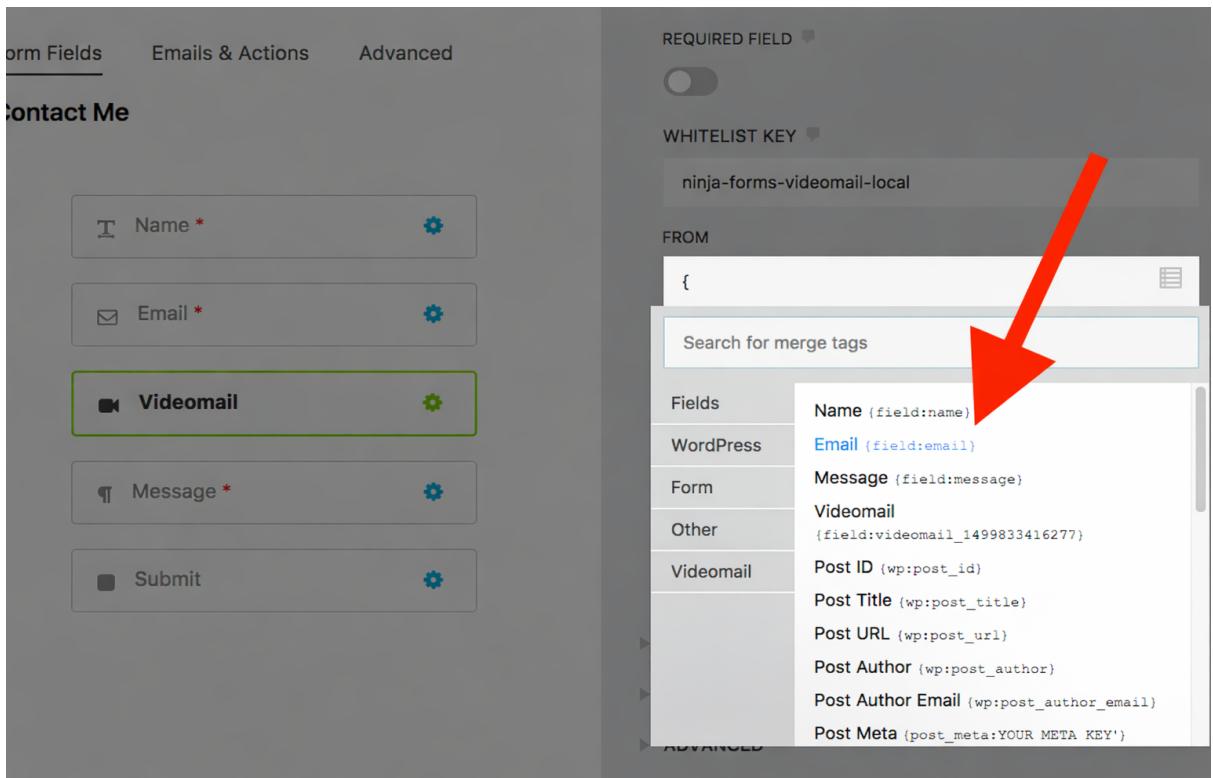
## 10. Then you will see lots of configuration options:

The screenshot shows the configuration interface for a 'Videomail' field within a form builder. On the left, there's a preview of the form fields: 'Name', 'Email', 'Videomail' (which is highlighted with a green border), 'Message', and 'Submit'. On the right, the detailed configuration panel for the 'Videomail' field is displayed. It includes sections for 'LABEL' (set to 'Videomail'), 'REQUIRED FIELD' (disabled), 'WHITELIST KEY' (set to 'ninja-forms-videomail-local'), and various email-related settings for 'FROM', 'TO', 'SUBJECT', and 'BODY'. At the bottom, there are sections for 'RESTRICTIONS', 'DISPLAY', 'ADVANCED', and 'ADMINISTRATION'. A 'DONE' button is located in the top right corner.

We will explain all these options the next sections 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)

11. For the FROM field, we link the FROM option with the Email input (aka merge tag):



12. 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:

The screenshot shows the Ninja Forms configuration interface. On the left, there's a preview of a contact form titled "Contact Me" with fields for Name, Email, Videomail (which is highlighted with a green border), Message, and Submit. On the right, the "Videomail" field settings are detailed:

- LABEL:** Videomail
- LABEL POSITION:** Form Default
- REQUIRED FIELD:** Off
- WHITELIST KEY:** 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:** These sections are collapsed.

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

The screenshot shows the Ninja Forms configuration interface again. The "Videomail" field settings are identical to the previous screenshot. A large red arrow points from the left towards the "DONE" button in the top right corner of the configuration panel.

14. Then click on the “Preview Changes” button:

The screenshot shows a form builder interface with the following elements:

- Header:** A blue banner with a cartoon character icon and the text "Create multi-column form layouts with Layout & Styles...learn more now!"
- Top Bar:** Buttons for "Form Fields", "Emails & Actions", "Advanced", "Preview Changes" (with an eye icon), a refresh icon, and a "PUBLISH" button.
- Title:** "Contact Me"
- Form Fields:**
  - Name \*
  - Email \*
  - Videicemail
  - Message \*
  - Submit
- Right Side:** A vertical column of blue gear icons, one next to each form field.

A large red arrow points upwards towards the "Preview Changes" button in the top right corner.

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

Use your camera

Block Allow

W

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 \***

16. 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.

See large example image on next page:

## Contact Me

Fields marked with an \* are required

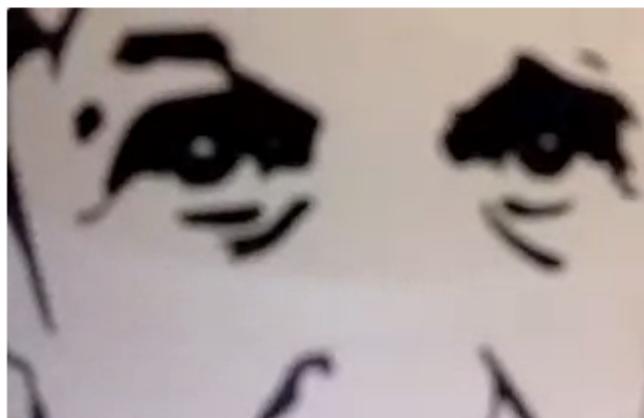
**Name \***

Michael Heuberger

**Email \***

michael.heuberger@binarykitchen.com

**Videomail**



▶ 0:02 / 0:02    [progress bar]    [full screen]    [download]

**Record again**

**Message \***

Just a test ...

**Submit**

17. 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 WordPress admin interface with the sidebar menu open, highlighting the 'Ninja Forms' section. Under 'Submissions', there is a single item listed. A red arrow points to the 'Edit' link in the table row for this submission.

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

The screenshot shows the 'Edit Item' page for the submission. On the left, the 'User Submitted Values' table displays the following data:

Field	Value
Name	Michael Heuberger
Email	michael.heuberger@binarykitchen.com
Videicemail	<a href="#">View Online</a>
Message	Just a test ...

On the right, the 'Submission Info' panel shows 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 these details is a blue 'Update' button. At the bottom of the page is a 'Videicemail' section containing a video thumbnail of two people's faces, a progress bar (0:00 / 0:02), and download links for 'video/webm' and 'video/mp4'.

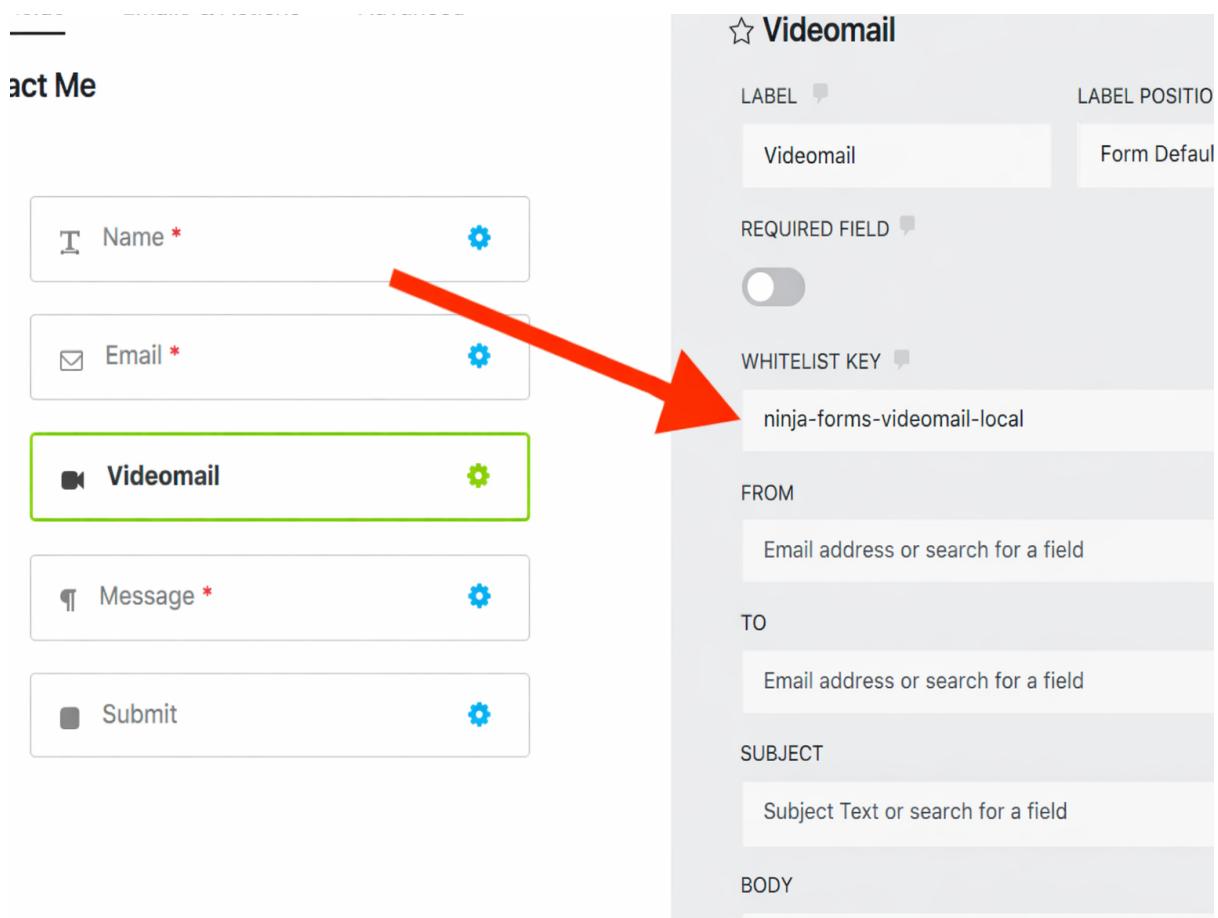
19. To reply to that videicemail, you have two options: one is to click on the “View Online” link and reply there, or the second one is to reply to the email notification the

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

## Common Questions

“Why do I see so many **Client creation error: ForbiddenErrors?**”

Most likely because the **Whitelist Key** is wrong. The default one which is “ninja-forms-videomail-local” only works locally. To run on your server, you need to obtain your custom Whitelist Key first via <https://videomail.io/whitelist> and then set it under options here:



*"How can I send back a confirmation videicemail 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 WPForms configuration interface for a "Video Contact Us" form. On the left, under the "Emails & Actions" tab, there is a list of actions:

NAME	TYPE	ACTIONS
Save to Database	Store Submission	<a href="#">Edit</a>
Success Message	Success Message	<a href="#">Edit</a>
<b>Confirmation Email back to User</b>	Email	<a href="#">Edit</a>
Video Message to Administrator	Email	<a href="#">Edit</a>

The "Confirmation Email back to User" action is selected. On the right, the "Email" configuration panel is open, showing the following details:

- ACTION NAME:** Confirmation Email back to User
- TO:** {field:from\_email} (Reply To: {wp:admin\_email})
- SUBJECT:** Confirmation for "{field:subject}"
- EMAIL MESSAGE:** A rich text editor containing the message: "Your video message was sent successfully to {wp:admin\_email}. Here again all the details of that video message:" followed by a list of fields:
  - 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: CC
  - BCC: BCC
  - ATTACHMENT: [Full screen](#)

*“How can I include a videicemail 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:

The screenshot shows the Ninja Forms interface. On the left, there's a sidebar with a user icon and a blue button that says "Create multi-column form layouts with Layout & Styles...learn more now!". Below the sidebar, there are three tabs: "Form Fields", "Emails & Actions" (which is selected), and "Advanced". The main area is titled "Video Contact Us". It contains a table with four rows, each with a toggle switch, a name, a type, and an "Actions" column with a gear icon.

	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	

The fourth row has a green background and is labeled "Video Message to Administrator".

On the right, there's a detailed view of an "Email" action. It includes fields for "ACTION NAME" (set to "Video Message to Administrator"), "TO" (set to "{wp:admin\_email}"), "REPLY TO" (set to "{field:from\_email}"), "SUBJECT" (set to "{field:subject}"), and an "EMAIL MESSAGE" editor. The message body contains the subject field and a note about viewing the videicemail online at {videomail:url}. It also includes a signature "Your humble servant, videomail.io".

Below the message editor, there's an "ADVANCED" section with fields for "FROM NAME" (set to "{field:from\_name}"), "FROM ADDRESS" (set to "{field:from\_email}"), "FORMAT" (set to "HTML"), "CC", "BCC", and "ATTACH CSV".

*“Why are the videomails linked to [www.videomail.io](http://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 onward) 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 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 #18 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 many 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

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

## Restrictions

<b>Limit Recording in Seconds</b>	Here you can set a limit the video length in seconds.
<b>Enable Audio (in Beta)</b>	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

<b>Countdown Time</b>	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.
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<b>Video Width</b>	Configure the width in pixels to match with the layout of your site.
<b>Image Quality</b>	Between 1 and 100% - impacts video quality in cost of bandwidth. 40 is the recommended default.

## Advanced

<b>Debug Mode</b>	Only for programmers, for advanced use only.
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## Administration

<b>Field Key</b>	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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