More WordPress Plugins Part 2

A review and evaluations of WordPress Form Plugins

Why add a form?

- A good-looking form gives your site a professional appearance, and also and helps streamline your online communication.
 - A contact form is a great way to offer your readers the ability to get in touch, without giving out your email address.
- While most WordPress themes come with built-in contact forms, it's often better to create your own with a plugin.
 - Creating your own allows you to tailor the look and feel you want for your site, add any extra fields – really, just have total control over your forms.
- There are many free and premium form plugins that offer a range of different features depending on what you need.
 - If you're after something basic it's best to go with a free plugin like
 Contact Form 7
 - A premium plugin such as GravityForms or FormCraft will provide a more comprehensive, flexible and customizable forms experience

Form Plugins

No Cost

- Contact Form 7
- Ninja Forms (*2)
- Formidable Forms (*3)
- Jetpack Forms
- Quform (*1)
- GuiForm
- Fast Secure Contact Forms
- Form Maker

\$ - Premium versions

- Gravity Forms Premium
- Formidable Forms Pro
- Quform Premium
- Form Maker (Pro)

^{*1} Reduced functionality Free Version

^{*2} Plugin is free, but add-ons cost \$

^{*3} Plugin stores form data in WP database

Checking Form Plugin Web Reviews Gravity Forms

- Gravity Forms is the most popular plugin on this list.
- Premium option is used on 53% of the top million sites ranked by Alexa using hosted forms.
- Lets you design and build your own forms using an intuitive forms editor.
- Features include multi-page forms, custom settings, the ability to limit entries and schedule forms, standard and advanced fields, pricing and post fields.
- Prices start at \$39 a year for a personal license and includes support, and unlimited forms and entries.
- There are add-ons available with the business and developer licenses to integrate Gravity Forms with MailChimp, PayPal, Survey and other services.

Contact Form 7

- Contact Form is the most popular free forms plugin with more than 18 million downloads in the WordPress Plugin Repository.
- Contact Form 7 is easy to use.
- It can manage multiple contact forms, and you can customize forms and any mail content flexibly with HTML.
- This plugin also support Ajax-powered submitting, CAPTCHA and Akismet spam filtering.
- Contact Form 7 can manage multiple contact forms, plus you can customize the form and the mail contents flexibly with simple markup.
- The form supports Ajax-powered submitting, CAPTCHA, Akismet spam filtering and so on.

Ninja Forms

- Ninja Forms is another popular free plugin.
- It has an easy-to-use drag and drop interface and allows you to create contact forms, email collection forms, or any other form you need on your site.
- Some of the plugin's features include optional Ajax, new form preview mode, styling and layout options, import and export options, anti-spam field, re-usable fields, customizable field options and easy form creation.
- For developers, Ninja Forms includes lots of hooks and filters so you can make the most of the plugin's powerful form building framework.
- While the plugin is free, you pay for add-ons, of which there are plenty.
 - Easily integrate Ninja Forms with PDF Form Submission, Stripe (like PayPal but better), PayPal and MailChimp.

Formidable Forms

- Formidable Forms features a simple drag and drop interface and in-place editing that allows you to quickly and easily build custom forms.
- This plugin features the ability to save all responses to the database for future retrieval, reports and display.
- The pro version, which starts at \$47, includes a bunch of add-ons, including integration with PayPal, MailChimp and Signature.

Form Maker

- The Form Maker is one of the best responsive form builders in WordPress Plugin Directory.
- WordPress Form Builder allows you to set all the parameters such as colors, fonts and dimensions to best fit all form standards.
 - If you want to make minimalistic forms, you can build forms with pre-filled texts, avoiding long form field labels.
 - If want to build simple contact forms with unlimited number of fields, then you can use WordPress Contact Form.
- Form Maker is a fresh and innovative form builder for generating various kinds of forms.
- The back end of the Form Maker is essential and easy to use, with no need of advanced programming skills.

Form Maker

- The Form Maker uses a number of customizable themes. You can choose the design of the form to fit your website/webpage.
 - Moreover, the Form Maker theme CSS is open for editing and making necessary changes, for creating a custom form design. To choose the best fitting form design, you can first preview the created forms changing the form theme and pressing preview button.
- WordPress Form Maker can be used both for simple and multipart forms.
 - That is why this form builder is a perfect choice for the beginners, who
 are just starting with forms and also meets the needs of experts (with
 advanced themes and multiple form customization possibilities).
 - This form builder can be used for creating simple forms, survey forms and questionnaires, registration and application forms and etc.

Which Form Plugin Is the Best?

It depends on what you need the form to do?

- If responsive forms are important, then Form
 Maker seems to be the only game in town
- If storing the contact form data in the database is important, then **Formidable Forms Pro version** (\$)
- If CAPTCHA or Honeypot is high on the feature list, then use Contact Form 7
- Make your feature list and compare the Form Plugins to find the one that's right for you

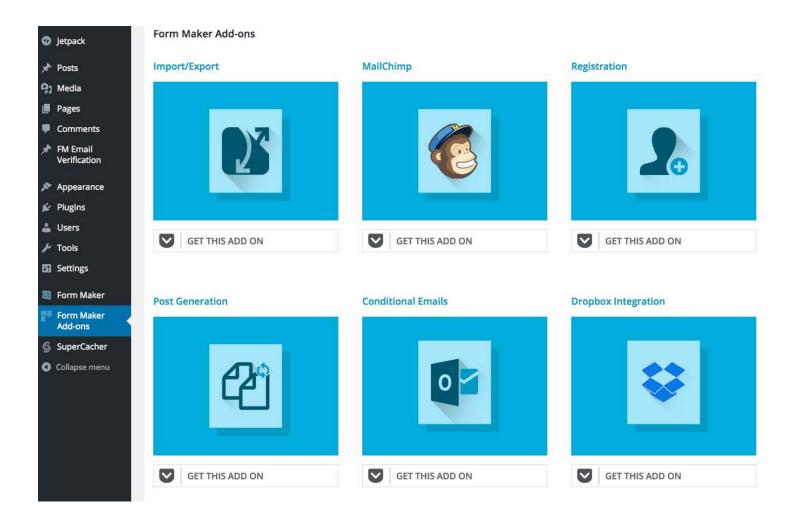
Contact Form 7 Honeypot plugin



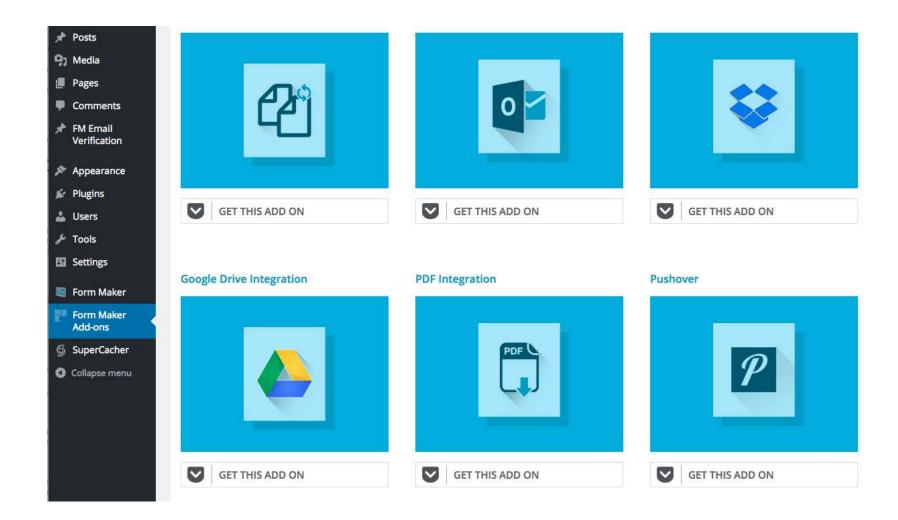
Form Maker



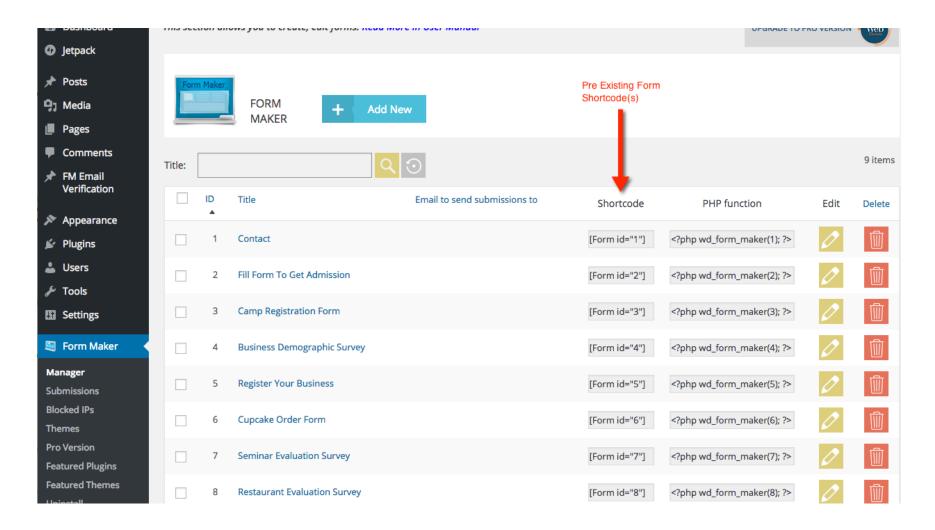
Form Maker Add-ons (1)



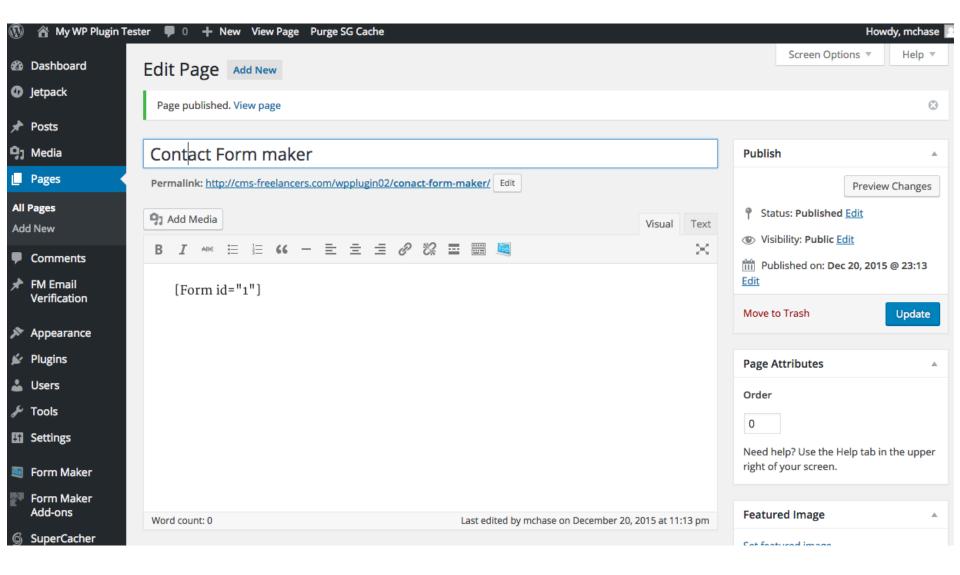
Form Maker Add-ons (2)



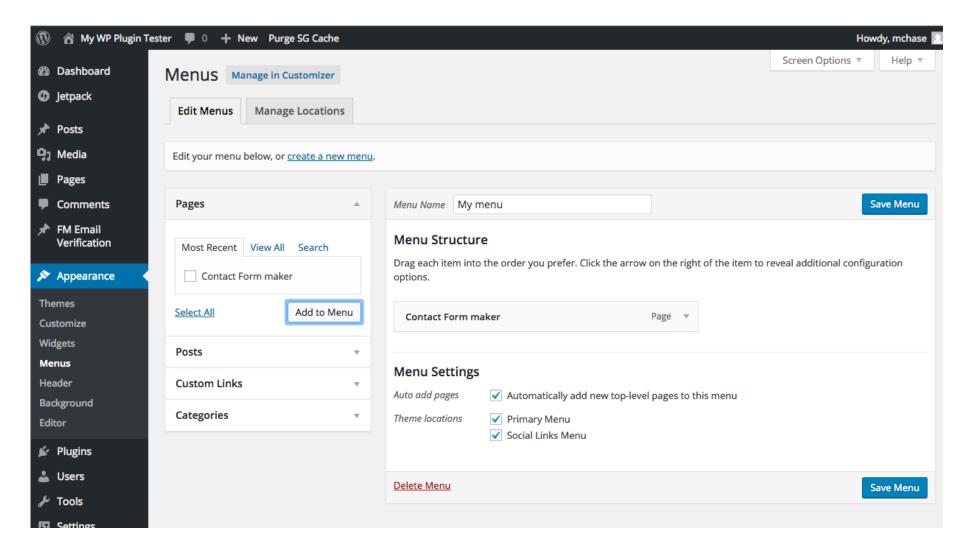
Form Maker Settings



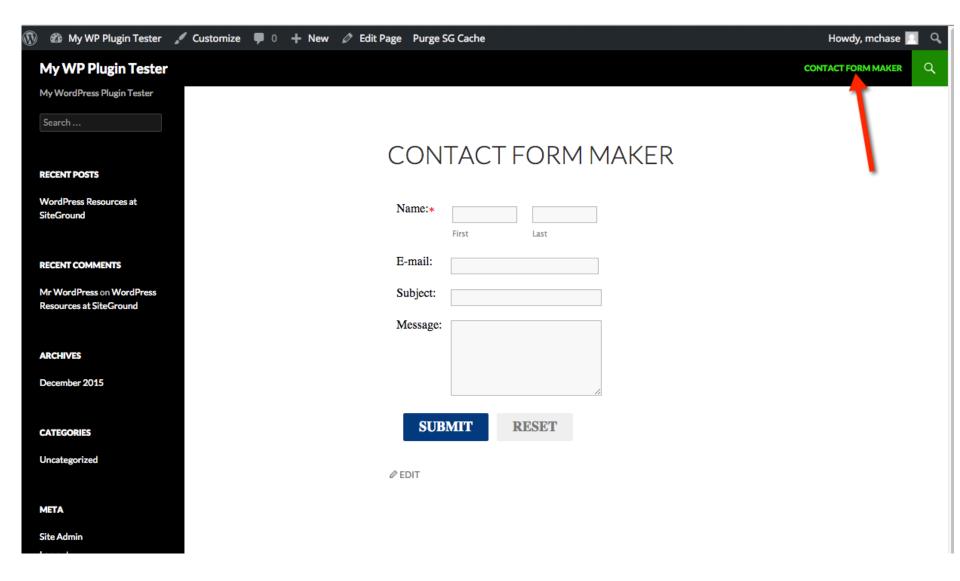
Create a Page with Contact Short Code



Create a menu, so we can test the page



Test the contact form



Fill out the form

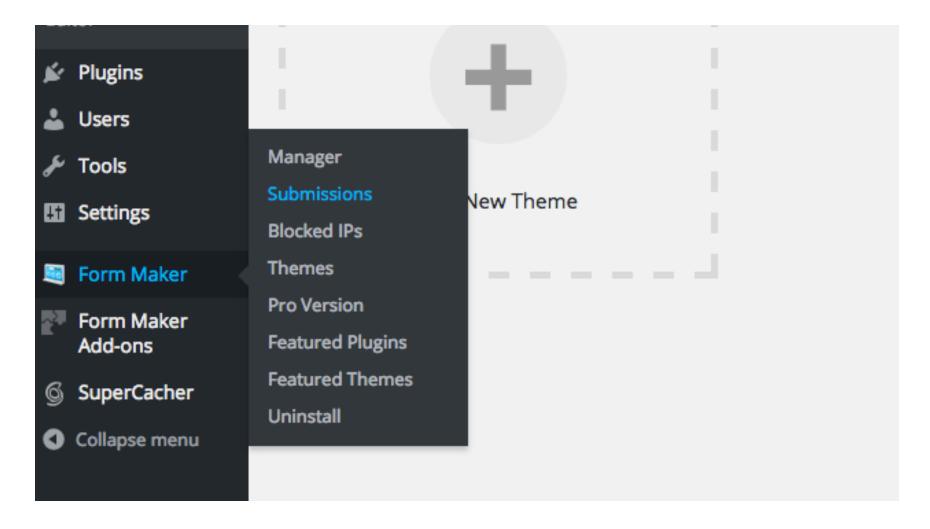
Name:*	Mike		Chase				
	First		Last				
E-mail:	mchase2@cdm.depauledu						
Subject:	My Test Subject						
Message:	My Test I	Message	2				
SUBMIT		RE	SET				

Form Submitted

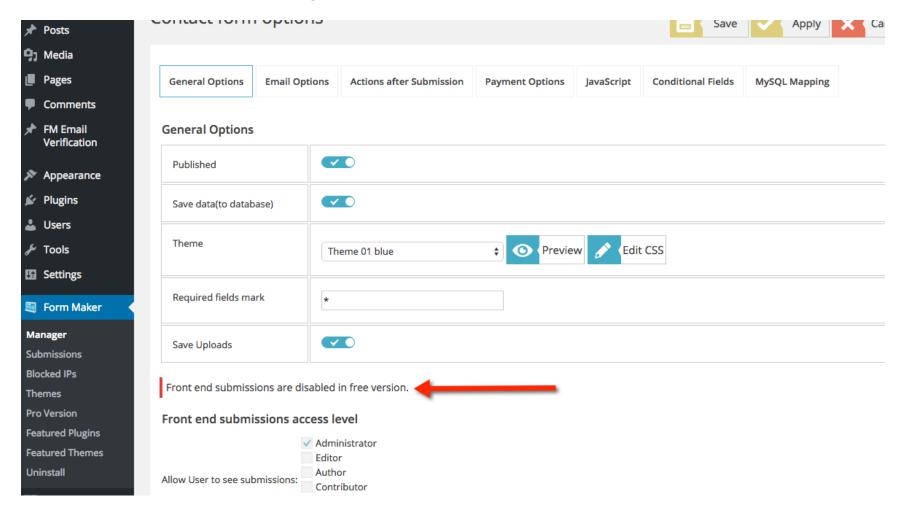
CONTACT FORM MAKER

Your form	was succ	essfully submi	tted.	
Name:*	First	Last		
E-mail:				
Subject:				
Message:				
SUB	MIT	RESET		
Ø EDIT				

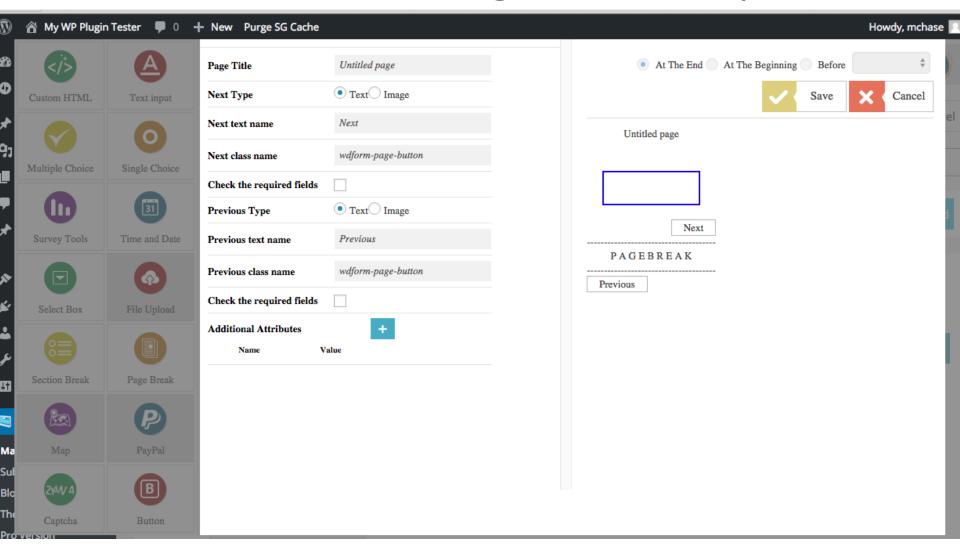
Form Maker Options



Form Maker – No cost version does not allow you to save to database



Edit the form - Strange and complex GUI



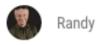
My review of Form Maker are not good

- The no cost version is a waste of time and energy
- You can not save to the database unless you upgrade to the PRO version
- The form edit GUI is complex

The Problem with Premium Versions

- Most plugins that have a premium or pro version, have a very limited free version
 - In most cases, its not worth the time and energy to install the free version, unless you are evaluating it for purchasing the premium or pro version

More Problems with Premium and Proversions



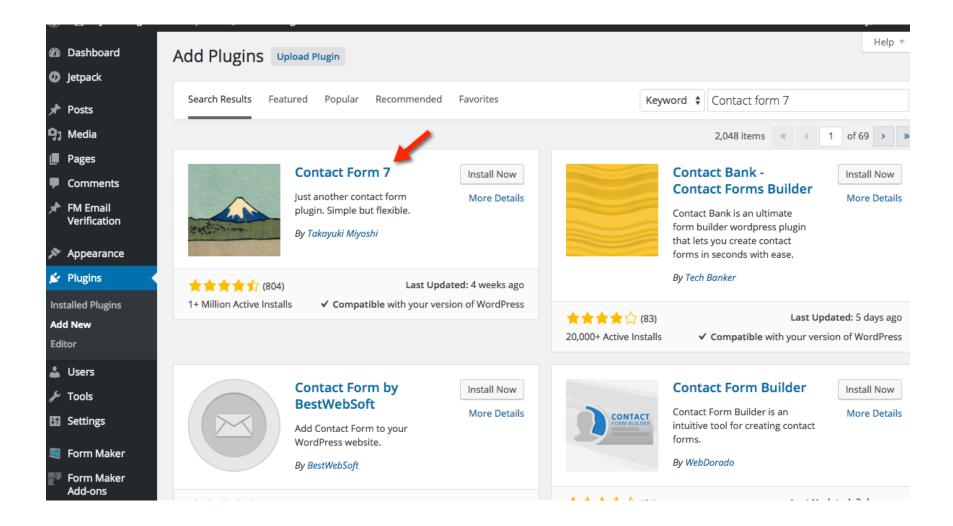
Visual Form Builder (Pro) used to be a darn great form builder, with conditional rules and a lot of great features. Regrettably, when they released version 3, it is full of bugs and the form creation process has become so encumbered that it is not even worth considering anymore.

For example, in version 2, I could create a "section", then put 20 questions in that section. Then I would select the "Conditional Rules" and have that section be displayed with all of its child fields.

In version 3, everything is flat – no sections, so now you need to write 20 rules instead of one. And that's only the beginning of the un-usability issues.

Why on earth do developers with great products trash them like this? Especially for a PAID plug-in that's not exactly cheap. It is so disheartening.

Contact Form 7





Description Installation Screenshots Changelog FAQ Reviews

Contact Form 7 can manage multiple contact forms, plus you can customize the form and the mail contents flexibly with simple markup. The form supports Ajax-powered submitting, CAPTCHA, Akismet spam filtering and so on.

Docs & Support

You can find <u>docs</u>, <u>FAQ</u> and more detailed information about Contact Form 7 on <u>contactform7.com</u>. If you were unable to find the answer to your question on the FAQ or in any of the documentation, you should check the <u>support forum</u> on WordPress.org. If you can't locate any topics that pertain to your particular issue, post a new topic for it.

Contact Form 7 Needs Your Support

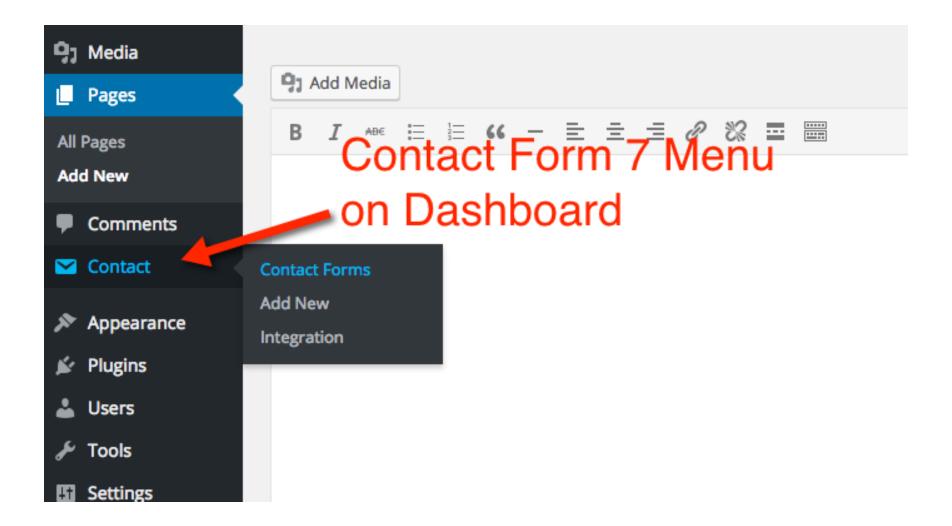
It is hard to continue development and support for this free plugin without contributions from users like you. If you enjoy using Contact Form 7 and find it useful, please consider <a href="mailto:m

Recommended Plugins

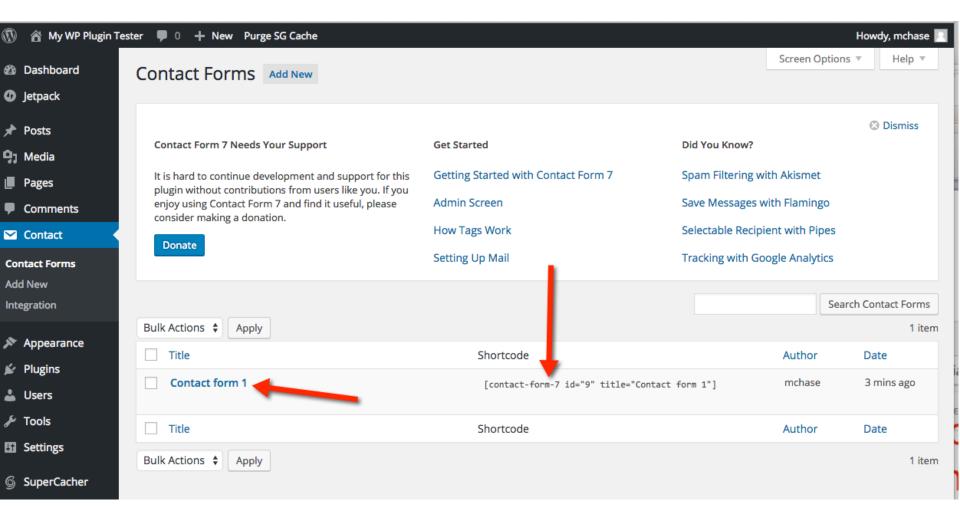
Version: 4.3.1 Author: Takayuki Miyoshi Last Updated: 4 weeks ago Requires WordPress Version: 4.2 or higher Compatible up to: 4.4 Active Installs: 1+ Million WordPress.org Plugin Page » Plugin Homepage » **AVERAGE RATING** (based on 804 ratings) 666 5 stars 71 4 stars 3 stars 17 13 2 stars 37 1 star CONTRIBUTORS takayukister

Install Now

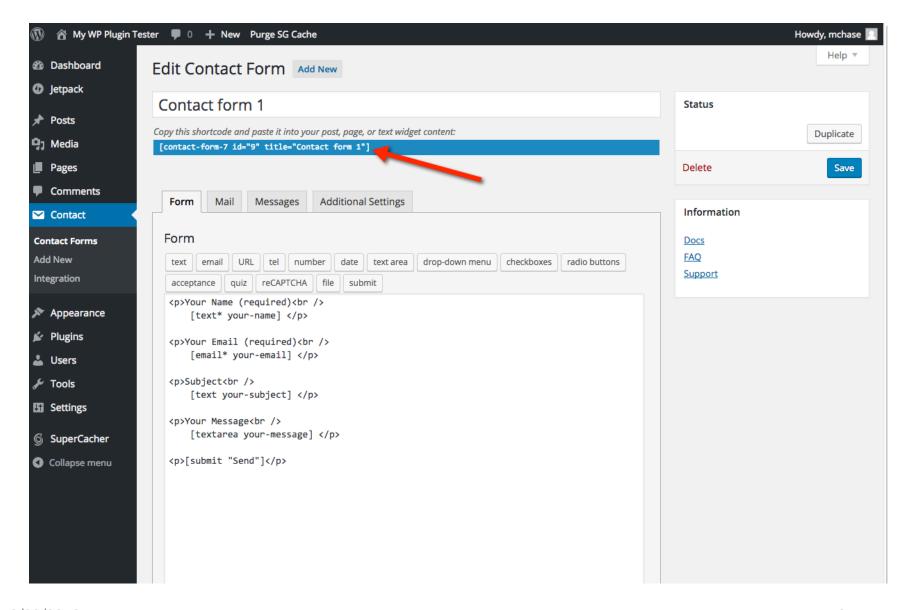
Contact Form 7 Extends WP by Adding a Contact Menu item on the dashboard



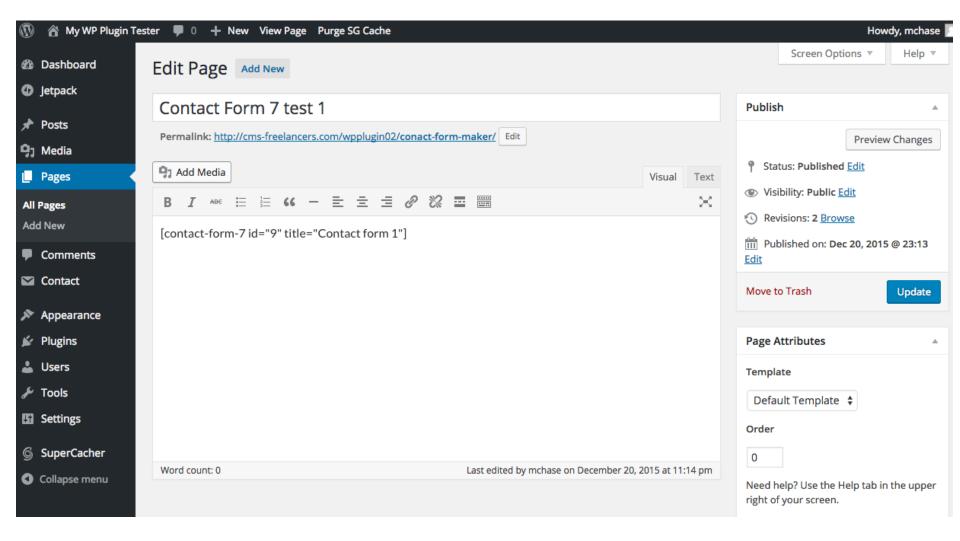
Contact Form 7 – Shortcode for Contact form 1



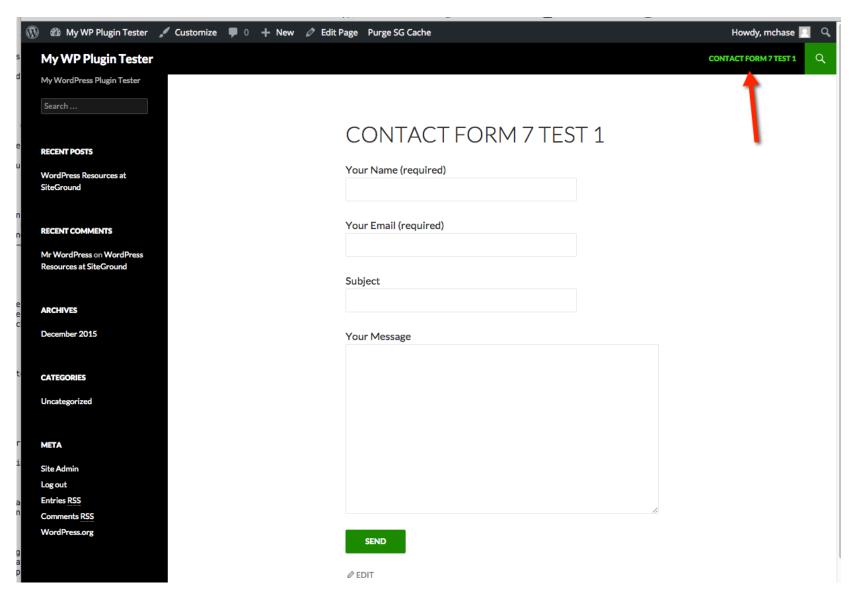
The Form Editor GUI



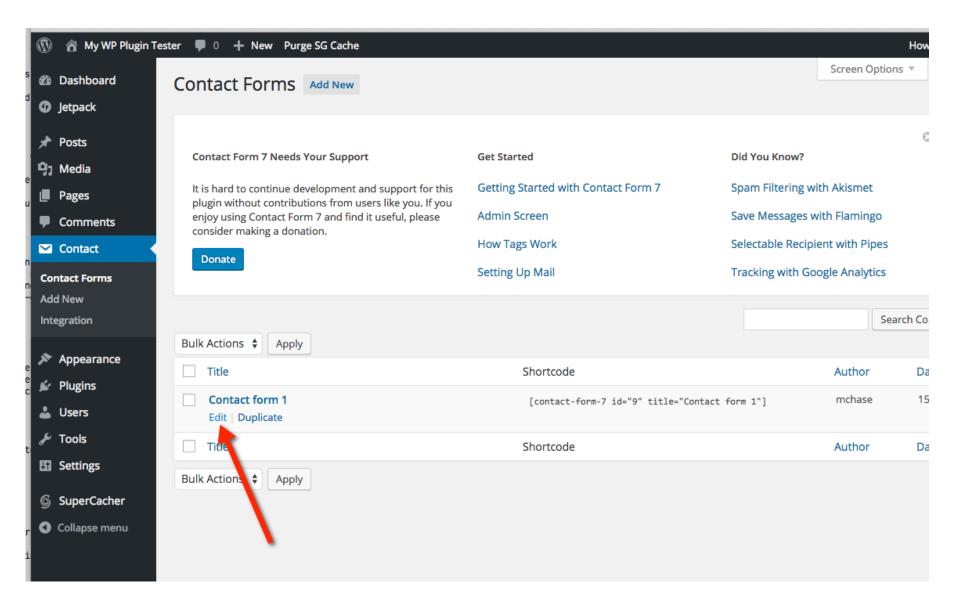
Creating a Contact Form 7 Form using the shortcode



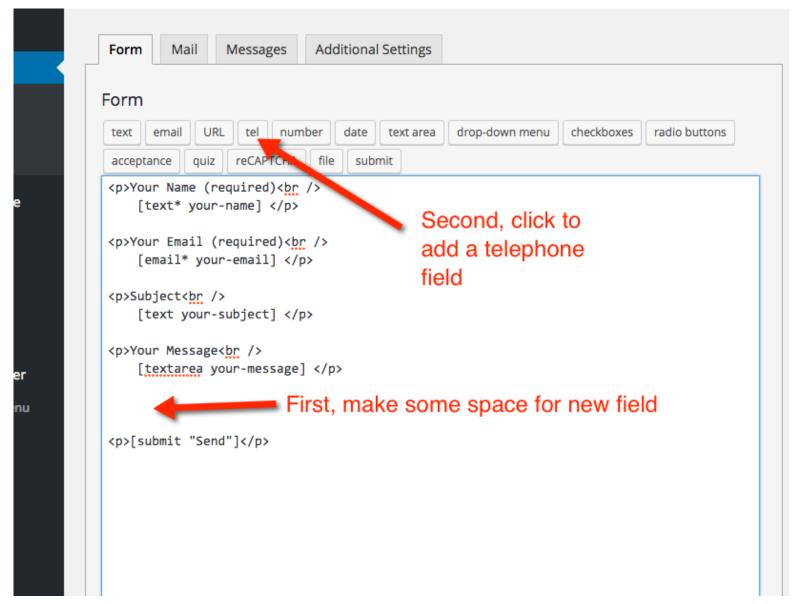
The form on the WP site



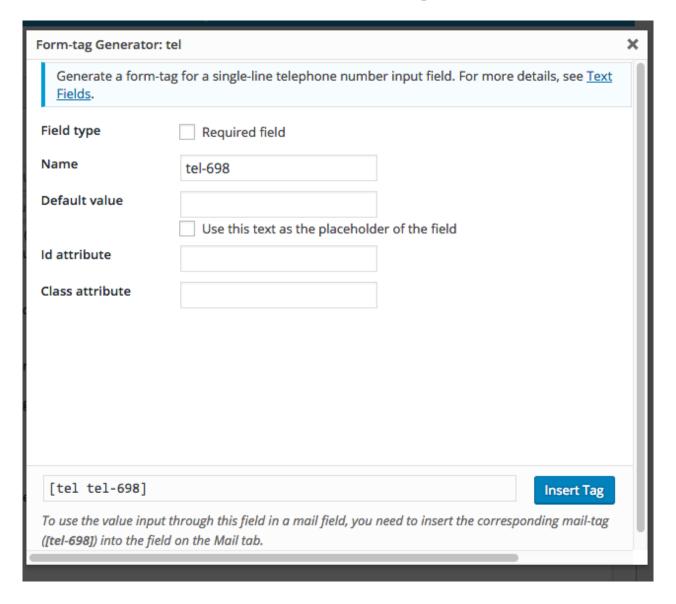
Edit Contact 7 Form and add a field



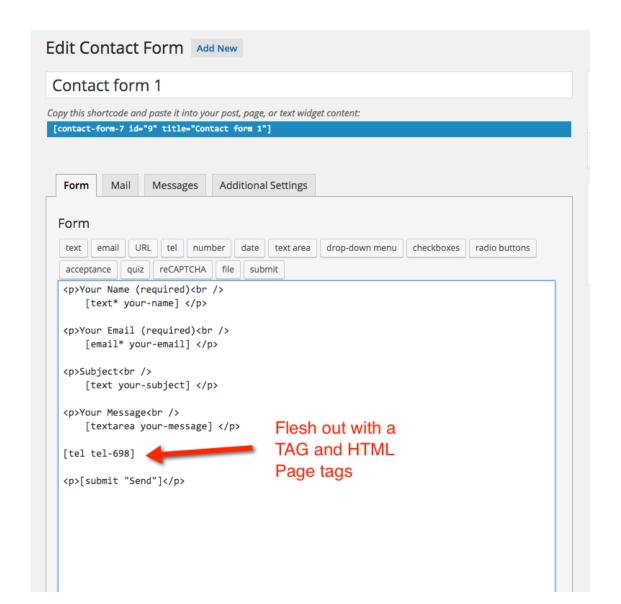
Edit the form



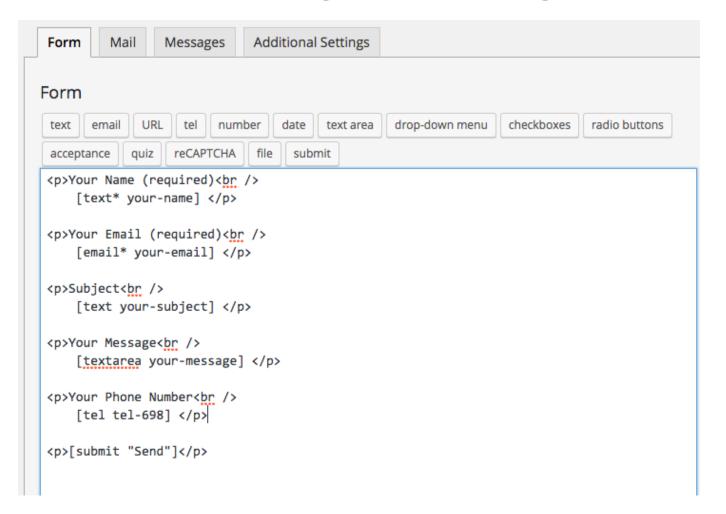
Select "Insert Tag" button



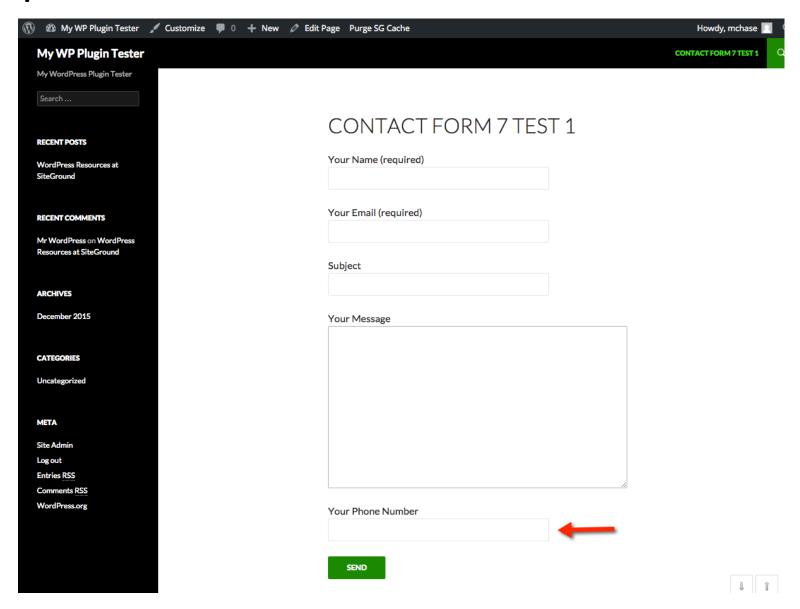
After the new field short code is added, edit the form



Flesh out the form with a label and matching HTML tags



Telephone number has been added to the form



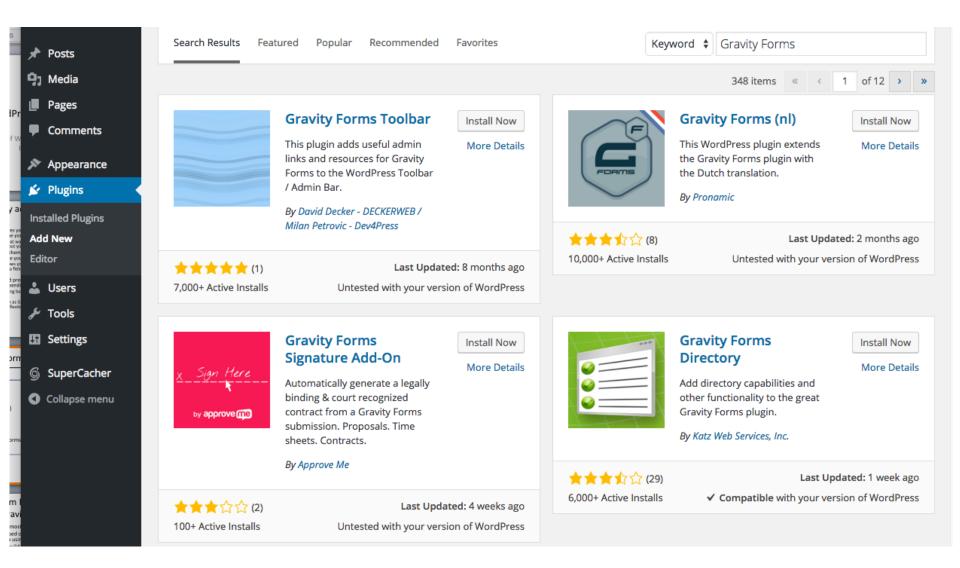
My Review of Contact Form 7

- For a no cost plugin it's pretty good
- The forms work
- They can be edited, although the GUI is a bit clunky
- THE BAD There is no drag and drop functionality for adding new fields, but I don't mind writing a little code!

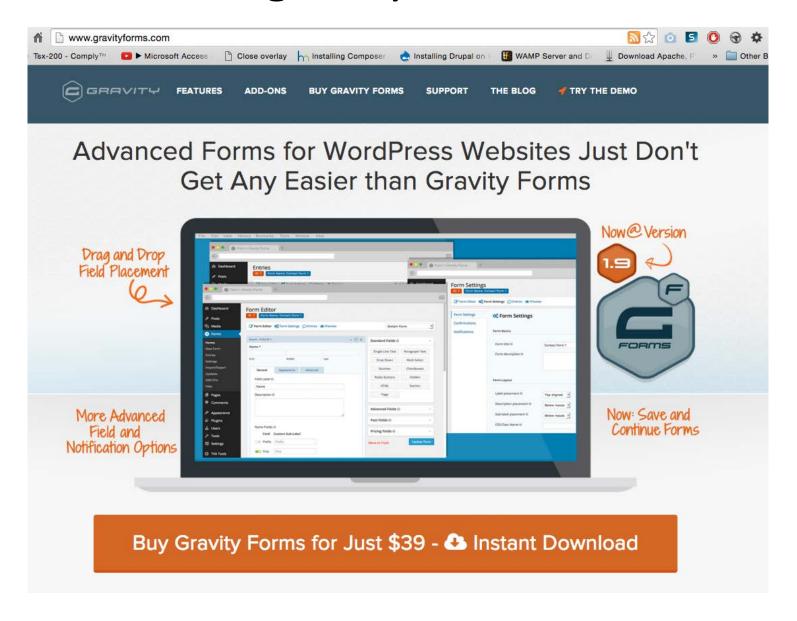
Gravity Forms

- Gravity forms is not available from the WordPress Plugins page
- You have to go to gravityforms.com and download the plugin
- This plugin and its add-ons are not cheap

Gravity Forms – is not on the plugins page

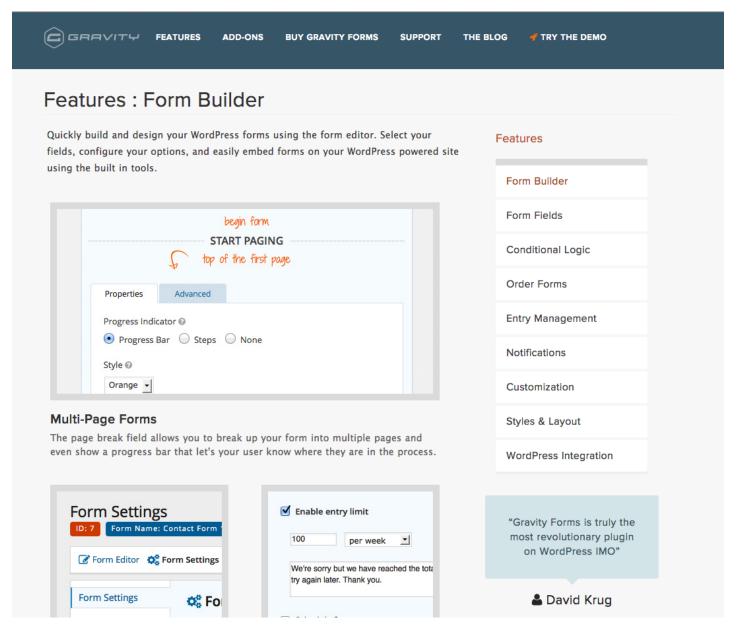


www.gravityforms.com

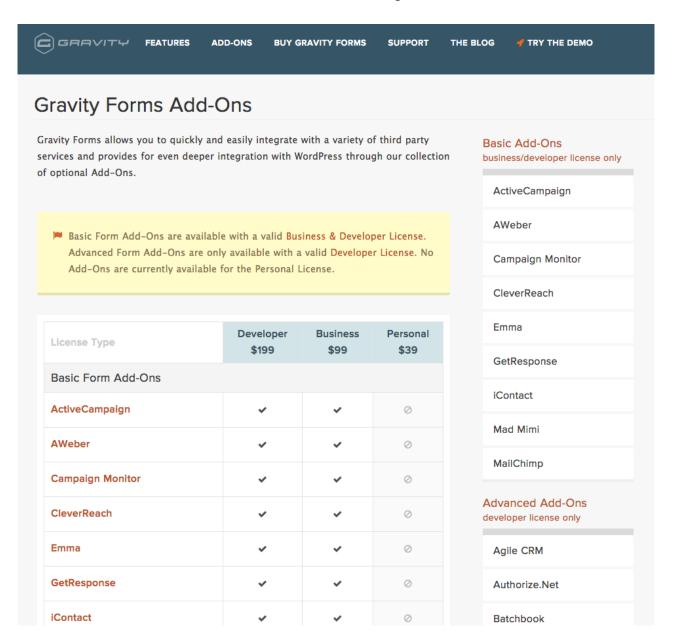


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Gravity Forms Features – Looks really good



Add-ons are expensive



My Take on the Form Plugins

- Gravity Form may be the best WordPress Forms Plugin, but you have to balance cost with usability and features
- Plus, it all really depends on what you or your client want the form to do
- You may be able to get by with the basic WordPress contact us form
- If your client wants more features, then do a feature gap analysis report,
 - list the features, rank them, list the plugin and add-on cost
 - Have the client rank the features (NOT YOU!)
 - You do the research and fill out the gap analysis document and review your findings with the client
 - Work with them to select the best form plugin for the money