

# AutoPost AI Documentation

Version 2.0

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AutoPost AI is a queue-based WordPress content assistant for generating blog topics, building draft posts, scheduling post creation, inserting inline images, and optionally creating a featured image with Stability AI. The free version uses GPT 4o. AutoPost AI Pro uses GPT 5.4.

This guide reflects the current free-plugin workflow, including clean title handling, no-em-dash safeguards, a hard maximum of 2 internal links per generated post, and at least 1 validated external reference link when the post is created successfully.

## Requirements

- WordPress 6.0 or higher. Tested up to WordPress 6.9.4.
- PHP 7.4 or higher.
- Administrator access in WordPress.
- An OpenAI API key for topic generation and post creation.
- An optional Stability AI API key if you want Stability AI featured images or the basic Image Generator.

## Core features in the free version

- Generate topic suggestions for a selected category.
- Clean and queue approved topics for later creation.
- Create full blog post drafts with GPT 4o.
- Schedule automatic post creation on a recurring cadence.
- Use Pixabay for inline images inside generated posts.
- Use Stability AI Stable Image Core for the featured image on created posts when a Stability AI API key is saved.
- Create standalone images in the Image Generator tab with Stability AI Stable Image Core.
- Optionally append a CTA block and email notifications for automatically created posts.

# Installation and first-time setup

## Installation

- Upload the plugin ZIP in WordPress or copy the plugin folder into `/wp-content/plugins/`.
- Activate AutoPost AI from the Plugins screen.
- Open **Posts > AutoPost AI** in the WordPress dashboard.

## Recommended first-time setup order

- Settings tab: save your OpenAI API key.
- Settings tab: review or replace the ChatGPT pre-prompt with your own brand context.
- Settings tab: optionally save a Stability AI API key.
- Post Creation Settings tab: choose Draft or Published, set the time frame in days, configure CTA options, and optionally add an email address for notifications.
- Generate Topics & Queue Posts tab: select a category, request suggestions, and add clean topics to the queue.

**Tip: Draft is the safer default. It gives you a chance to review the post, images, links, and CTA before anything goes live.**

## Admin tab overview

### Generate Topics & Queue Posts

Choose a category, request topic suggestions, review the results, and add selected topics to the queue. Topic suggestions are cleaned before display so markdown noise, list bullets, chatty lead-in text, and stray formatting do not become post titles.

### Post Creation

Review queued topics, use Create Now for an individual topic, and view the Created Posts list. AutoPost AI stores queue items and tracks creation timing inside its own database table.

### Post Creation Settings

Control the post-creation time frame in days, default post status, CTA options, and optional email notifications for automatically created posts.

### Image Generator

Generate a standalone image with Stability AI Stable Image Core. The generated image is saved to the WordPress media library using the file name you provide plus an identifier.

### Settings

Save your OpenAI API key, optionally save a Stability AI API key, and manage the pre-prompt that defines your website or brand context.

## How post creation works

- AutoPost AI uses GPT 4o to generate long-form HTML for the post body.
- The plugin asks for clean HTML only and strips code fences, markdown junk, and other noise if it appears anyway.
- The plugin sanitizes titles used in suggestions, queue items, Create Now, and cron-created posts.
- The plugin blocks em dashes and en dashes in prompts and also replaces them during cleanup if they still appear.
- Generated posts are designed to include at least 1 external reference link to a viable informational page.
- Generated posts are limited to a maximum of 2 internal links.
- Duplicate or excessive internal links are stripped back to plain text when needed.

## Images in generated posts

Inline images in the free version come from Pixabay. AutoPost AI searches Pixabay based on the topic or extracted keywords, downloads matching assets, and inserts them into the post. If not enough inline images are found, the plugin can fall back to a bundled local placeholder image.

If a Stability AI API key is saved, the featured image can be generated with Stable Image Core at a fixed 3:2 ratio. The featured-image prompt is title-aware and is specifically tuned to avoid generic camera gear unless the post title is actually about cameras, photography, videography, film, or related equipment.

## Content quality guardrails

- Clean topic titles with no bullets, no markdown markers, and no chatty lead-in text.
- No em dashes or en dashes in generated content.
- Maximum of 2 internal links in each generated post.
- At least 1 validated external reference link when a viable URL can be confirmed during the request.
- No generic stock-photo camera imagery in featured images unless the title clearly calls for it.

## Scheduling and automation

AutoPost AI registers a 15-minute cron schedule and checks the queue on that cadence. Based on your Post Creation Settings, the plugin decides when the next queued topic should be created. New posts can also be created immediately from the queue with Create Now.

## CTA and notifications

If enabled, AutoPost AI can append a custom CTA block to the end of the generated post. You can also save an email address to receive notifications when a queued post is automatically created.

## Troubleshooting

### Common checks

- Verify that your OpenAI API key is saved and active.
- If you want Stability AI featured images or Image Generator access, verify that your Stability AI API key is saved.
- Use Draft status while testing so you can review images and links before publishing.
- If topic generation or post creation looks off, review and tighten your pre-prompt.
- If a generated post is missing a featured image, confirm that the Stability AI key is valid and that the request did not fail upstream.

### About the hiccup alert

If WordPress shows the alert that says a hiccup occurred, the post may still have been created. This usually means the request finished late or part of the post-creation response did not return cleanly. Refresh the queue and Created Posts list before creating the same topic again.

**Important: external-link checks are meant to improve link quality, but live URL validation can still depend on the target site, firewall rules, bot blocking, or temporary server behavior.**

## Third-party services used by AutoPost AI

AutoPost AI connects to third-party services only when you use a feature that requires that service. Review the relevant service terms and privacy policies before use.

Service	What it is used for	Links
OpenAI	Topic suggestions, post generation, keyword extraction, and featured-image prompt building.	OpenAI Services Agreement Privacy Policy
Stability AI	Featured-image generation and the basic Image Generator when a Stability AI API key is saved.	Stability AI Terms of Service Privacy Policy
Pixabay	Inline image retrieval for generated posts in the free version.	Pixabay API Terms of Service Privacy Policy

## Support and upgrade

For support, setup help, or upgrade information, visit [plugins.guru-is.com/support/](https://plugins.guru-is.com/support/). To learn more about AutoPost AI Pro, visit [plugins.guru-is.com/product/autopost-ai-pro/](https://plugins.guru-is.com/product/autopost-ai-pro/).

To learn more about AutoPost AI on our website, visit [plugins.guru-is.com/product/autopost-ai/](https://plugins.guru-is.com/product/autopost-ai/).