



AutoPost AI Documentation

Version 3.0 | August 28, 2026

Generate AI blog topics, build a queue, create WordPress posts with text and images, schedule content creation, add CTAs, and manage the workflow from one dashboard.

AutoPost AI on plugins.guru-is.com

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Free version at a glance

GPT 5.4 for topic and post generation, a queue-based creation workflow, Pixabay inline images, optional Stability AI Stable Image Core featured images, a basic standalone Image Generator, CTA support, and scheduled creation through WordPress cron.

Contents

1. Overview and requirements
2. Installation and first-time setup
3. Dashboard tabs and controls
4. Topic generation and queue management
5. Post creation workflow
6. Scheduling and WordPress cron
7. Images and featured images
8. Content, title, and link guardrails
9. Settings, CTA, and notifications
10. Data storage, permissions, and uninstall behavior
11. Third-party services
12. Troubleshooting and common questions
13. Free vs Pro overview
14. Version 3.0 notes

Product links

AutoPost AI: plugins.guru-is.com/product/autopost-ai/

AutoPost AI Pro: plugins.guru-is.com/product/autopost-ai-pro/

1. Overview and requirements

AutoPost AI is a WordPress content assistant built around a queue. Administrators can generate category-based topic ideas, add suggestions or manual topics to the queue, create posts immediately, or let the plugin create queued posts automatically on a configured cadence.

Requirements

- WordPress 6.0 or higher. The plugin header currently reports Tested up to WordPress 7.1.
- PHP 7.4 or higher.
- Administrator access with the `manage_options` capability.
- An OpenAI API key with active API billing or available API credits for AI topic and post generation.
- Optional: a Stability AI API key for Stable Image Core featured images and the basic Image Generator.
- A working WordPress cron system for scheduled queue processing.

Core free-version capabilities

- Generate topic suggestions for a selected WordPress category with GPT 5.4 .
- Queue AI-suggested topics and manually entered topics.
- Create standard WordPress posts as Draft or Published.
- Create a queued post immediately with Create Now.
- Automatically process the oldest pending topic when its configured interval is due.
- Retrieve Pixabay images, insert up to 5 inline images, and use a sixth image as a featured-image fallback when available.
- Optionally generate the featured image with Stability AI Stable Image Core at a fixed 3:2 ratio.
- Generate standalone Stability AI images in 16:9, 1:1, 3:2, or 2:3.
- Append an optional linked CTA and send an optional email after automatic creation.
- Apply cleanup and link guardrails to generated content.

2. Installation and first-time setup

Installation

- In WordPress, go to Plugins > Add New Plugin > Upload Plugin.
- Upload the AutoPost AI ZIP file and activate the plugin.
- Open Posts > AutoPost AI.

Recommended setup order

- Settings: Save your OpenAI API key.
- Settings: Replace the default ChatGPT pre-prompt placeholders with your own site or business context, audience, goals, and tone.
- Settings: Optionally save a Stability AI API key.
- Post Creation Settings: Set the number of days between automatic creations, choose Draft or Published, and configure optional CTA and email settings.
- Generate Topics & Queue Posts: Select a category, request suggestions, and add chosen topics to the queue.

Recommended

Use Draft status during setup and testing. Review generated text, external references, images, featured images, and CTA content before enabling Published status.

3. Dashboard tabs and controls

Generate Topics & Queue Posts	Select a category, request GPT 5.4 topic suggestions, refresh suggestions, select topics, and add them to the queue.
Post Creation	Add a manual topic, view pending topics, see estimated days until creation, create now, delete pending topics, and review created or published posts.
Post Creation Settings	Configure the creation interval, Draft or Published status, optional CTA text and URL, and optional automatic-creation email notifications.
Image Generator	Generate a standalone Stable Image Core image and save it to the WordPress Media Library. Requires a Stability AI API key.
Settings	Save OpenAI and Stability AI keys, edit the ChatGPT pre-prompt, and reset the pre-prompt to the plugin default.
Go Pro	Review the built-in Free vs Pro feature comparison and open AutoPost AI Pro purchase or comparison links.

Plugin page links

The WordPress Plugins screen includes Dashboard and Documentation action links beneath AutoPost AI. The Documentation link opens the bundled PDF from the plugin directory.

4. Topic generation and queue management

Generate topic suggestions

- Choose a WordPress category. The Uncategorized category is excluded from the selector.
- Click Suggest Topics. The plugin sends the category and your saved brand context to OpenAI.
- The plugin checks queue history for the selected category and tells the model not to repeat already stored topics.
- Generated suggestions are cleaned before display so markdown markers, list prefixes, chatty lead-ins, and unwanted dash characters do not become titles.
- Select the ideas you want and click Add to Post Creation Queue.

Manual topic entry

The Post Creation tab includes a category selector and manual topic field. This lets an administrator add a topic without calling OpenAI for suggestions.

Pending queue

- Pending items are ordered by queue ID, oldest first.
- Each row shows Actions, Topic, Category, Days Until Creation, and Topic Creation Date.
- Create Now starts the full post creation workflow for that queue item.
- Delete removes the queue item.
- The queue uses AJAX and loads rows in pages, with a Load More control for additional entries.

Created Posts

- Created and published queue entries are listed separately.
- The plugin links a created post back to its queue entry with the `_autopost_ai_queue_id` post meta key.
- Drafts show an Edit Post link when the post exists.
- Published posts can show View Post and Edit Post links.
- If a previously created draft is later published manually, the queue record is updated when the Created Posts list is loaded.

5. Post creation workflow

The manual Create Now path and the scheduled cron path follow the same general content and image workflow.

1. Read the queued topic and category.
2. Sanitize the topic into a clean WordPress post title.
3. Generate long-form HTML with `GPT 5.4` and the saved pre-prompt context.
4. Clean AI output and enforce the plugin's link rules.
5. Request Pixabay images and upload available remote images to the WordPress Media Library.
6. Insert up to 5 inline images into the post content.
7. Append the CTA block when CTA is enabled and both CTA text and URL are present.
8. Create a standard WordPress post using the configured Draft or Published status and selected category.
9. Add queue-reference post meta.
10. Try Stability AI Stable Image Core for the featured image when a Stability AI API key is saved.
11. If no Stability featured image is available, use the sixth Pixabay image as a featured-image fallback when possible.
12. Update the queue status and timestamps.

Post status behavior

When the setting is Draft, the queue item becomes created. When the setting is Published, the queue item becomes published and receives a publication timestamp.

6. Scheduling and WordPress cron

AutoPost AI registers an every-15-minutes WordPress cron schedule. The cron event checks whether enough days have elapsed since the last created post and, when due, selects the oldest pending queue item.

Creation interval

- The Post Creation Time Frame is stored in days and has a minimum value of 1 in the dashboard.
- The default shown in the current dashboard is 3 days.
- The pending queue estimates Days Until Creation from the last creation date, configured interval, and each item's queue position.
- Creating a post manually with Create Now updates the last-created timestamp, which also affects future scheduled timing.

Important WordPress cron behavior

Cron timing

WordPress cron is normally traffic-driven. AutoPost AI may register a 15-minute check, but WordPress must actually trigger wp-cron.php. On a low-traffic site, use a real server cron or hosting cron that calls WordPress cron reliably.

Automatic email

When a notification email is configured, the scheduled workflow can send an email after a queued post is automatically created. The manual Create Now workflow does not use that automatic-creation notification path.

7. Images and featured images

Pixabay inline images

- The free plugin uses Pixabay for inline images.
- The post workflow asks for up to 6 image results.
- Up to 5 image slots are inserted inline in the post body.
- The sixth image can be used as a featured-image fallback.
- When not enough Pixabay results are available, the bundled placeholder image is used for missing inline slots.

Stability AI featured image

- Saving a Stability AI API key enables Stable Image Core for generated post featured images.
- Auto-created featured images use a fixed 3:2 aspect ratio.
- The featured-image prompt is built from the post title and category context.
- Prompt logic adds negative terms intended to avoid generic camera, lens, photographer, and production-gear imagery unless the title is actually about those subjects.
- If Stability AI does not return a usable featured image, the workflow can fall back to the sixth Pixabay image.

Basic Image Generator

- Requires a saved Stability AI API key.
- Uses Stability AI Stable Image Core in the free version.
- Accepts a free-form prompt.
- Accepts an optional file name. The dashboard normalizes spaces and adds a .webp extension to the editing experience.
- Supports 16:9, 1:1, 3:2, and 2:3 aspect ratios.
- Saves the generated image to the WordPress Media Library and shows the latest image in the dashboard.

8. Content, title, and link guardrails

AI output cleanup

- Generated titles are stripped of HTML, code fences, markdown markers, list numbering, quote wrappers, and common chatty lead-in phrases.
- Generated HTML is trimmed so stray model commentary before the first content element does not become post content.
- Em dash and en dash characters are replaced during cleanup.
- The prompt instructs the model to return clean HTML rather than markdown or conversational wrapper text.

Internal links

The plugin enforces a hard maximum of 2 internal links in generated post content. Excess internal links can be converted back to plain text so the final HTML stays within the limit.

External references

- The generation workflow asks for a useful external informational reference.
- The plugin extracts and evaluates external URLs and attempts to ensure at least 1 viable external reference when a working URL can be confirmed.
- Validation results are cached to reduce repeated remote checks.
- Remote servers may block bots, HEAD requests, or automated traffic. A valid human-accessible page can still fail an automated link check.

9. Settings, CTA, and notifications

OpenAI API key

The Settings tab stores the OpenAI API key in WordPress options and uses it for OpenAI requests. A ChatGPT Plus or Pro subscription is not the same as OpenAI API billing. The API key needs access to the API with available billing or credits.

ChatGPT pre-prompt

- The pre-prompt provides website or business context for topic generation and full post creation.
- The default text contains placeholders for business name, website, offering, goals, audience, and tone.
- When the saved prompt is still exactly the plugin default, the generation helper treats it as empty brand context.
- The Settings tab provides Save Prompt and Reset to Default controls.

Post Creation Settings

Time Frame	Number of days between automatic creations. Minimum 1.
Post Status	Draft or Published.
CTA Enabled	Turns the footer CTA block on or off.
CTA Text	The linked call-to-action text.
CTA Link	The destination URL. Both CTA text and URL must be present for the block to be appended.
Notification Email	Optional recipient for automatic post-creation notifications.

10. Data storage, permissions, and uninstall behavior

Permissions and AJAX

- The plugin dashboard is intended for administrators and AJAX handlers verify the `manage_options` capability.
- Dashboard AJAX requests use a WordPress nonce based on `autopost_ai_nonce`.
- Queue, settings, image generation, Create Now, and list-loading operations are handled through authenticated WordPress admin AJAX endpoints where implemented.

Custom queue table

On activation, the plugin creates `{prefix}autopost_ai_queue`. It stores the queue ID, topic, category ID, category label, status, topic creation timestamp, post creation timestamp, and publication timestamp.

WordPress options

The plugin stores settings such as OpenAI and Stability AI keys, Stability image preferences, post creation settings, the pre-prompt, the last-created timestamp, and the optional uninstall-removal preference.

Uninstall behavior

On uninstall, the plugin clears the `autopost_ai_cron_hook` scheduled event. The custom queue table and plugin options are removed only when the `autopost_ai_remove_data_on_uninstall` option or the corresponding `autopost_ai/remove_data_on_uninstall` filter evaluates to true.

Data note

Before uninstalling, back up any content or configuration you need to preserve. WordPress posts and Media Library items created by the plugin are separate WordPress content objects.

11. Third-party services

OpenAI	Topic suggestions, full post generation, keyword extraction, and featured-image prompt building.	Service API terms Privacy
Stability AI	Stable Image Core featured images and the basic Image Generator when a Stability AI key is saved.	Service Terms Privacy
Pixabay	Inline image retrieval for generated posts and a possible featured-image fallback.	API Terms Privacy

When a feature is used, relevant prompt text, generation context, search terms, or image settings are transmitted to the service required for that feature.

12. Troubleshooting and common questions

Topic generation does not work

Confirm that the OpenAI key is saved, the API account has billing or credits, and the WordPress server can make outbound HTTPS requests.

Automatic posts are late

Confirm that WordPress cron is running. Low-traffic sites often need a server cron that triggers wp-cron.php.

A post has placeholder images

Pixabay did not return or successfully upload enough image results. Draft status is recommended so placeholders can be replaced before publication.

No Stability featured image

Confirm the Stability AI key is valid and funded. The plugin can fall back to a Pixabay featured image when one is available.

The Image Generator is unavailable

Save a Stability AI API key in Settings. The free Image Generator is gated by that key.

A reference link is missing

Remote validation can fail because a target site blocks automated requests or is temporarily unavailable. Review links before publishing.

Create Now reports a hiccup but a post exists

Refresh the queue and Created Posts list before retrying. A long remote request can finish after the browser-side request path has become uncertain.

Can I create custom post types?

No. The current free version creates standard WordPress posts.

Can the free version publish automatically?

Yes. Select Published in Post Creation Settings. Draft remains the safer testing choice.

13. Free vs Pro overview

The dashboard includes a Go Pro tab. The table below summarizes the claims presented by the current free-plugin interface.

Topic generation	Yes	Yes
Post creation queue	Yes	Yes
Scheduled draft creation	Yes	Yes
Basic Stability AI Image Generator	Yes	Yes
GPT 5.6 Sol production workflow	No	Yes
Advanced Stability AI image options	No	Yes
Gemini image models	No	Yes
Approval workflow	No	Yes
Facebook posting	No	Yes
Google Business Profile posting	No	Yes
Advanced publishing controls	No	Yes

[Upgrade to AutoPost AI Pro](#)

14. Version 3.0 notes

- WordPress.org Short Description reduced to 144 characters, below the 150-character maximum.
- Plugin header version updated to 3.0.
- AUTOPOST_AI_VERSION runtime constant updated to 3.0.
- readme.txt Stable tag updated to 3.0.
- readme.txt expanded to document the complete current free-plugin workflow.
- Bundled documentation rebuilt with this branded cover page and current product and Pro upgrade links.

Support and product information

[AutoPost AI product page](#)

[AutoPost AI Pro upgrade page](#)

[Guru Plugins support](#)

Version

This document describes AutoPost AI Free version 3.0 as packaged with this plugin build.