# AutoPost AI

## Complete WordPress Plugin Documentation

A practical step-by-step guide from API key setup through topic generation, post creation, image generation, scheduling, and upgrade options.

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**Version 4.0**

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START HERE

# Quick Start: Set Up AutoPost AI

**Best first test: choose Draft as the post status, create one topic manually, then use Create Now so you can review the entire workflow before relying on automation.**

- **Step 1:** Open **AutoPost AI > Settings** in WordPress.
- **Step 2:** Enter your OpenAI API key. This powers GPT 5.4 text generation and GPT-Image-2.5 Flare.
- **Step 3:** Optional: enter a Stability AI API key if you want Stable Image Core as an image choice.
- **Step 4:** Choose your Featured Image Engine: GPT-Image-2.5 Flare (Medium) or Stability AI Stable Image Core.
- **Step 5:** Review the ChatGPT pre-prompt and replace the placeholders with your business/site information, audience, goals, and preferred tone.
- **Step 6:** Open **Post Creation Settings** and set your creation time frame, post status, CTA options, and notification email.
- **Step 7:** Go to **Generate Topics & Queue Posts**, choose a category, generate topic ideas, and add the ones you want to the queue.
- **Step 8:** Use **Create Now** for immediate creation or let WordPress CRON create posts automatically according to your settings.

SETUP

# OpenAI API Key Setup

- AutoPost AI needs an OpenAI API key for topic suggestions, post generation, keyword extraction, featured-image prompt building, and GPT-Image-2.5 Flare generation.
- **1.** Create or obtain an OpenAI API key from your OpenAI account.
- **2.** In WordPress, open **AutoPost AI > Settings**.
- **3.** Paste the key into the OpenAI API Key field and save it.
- **4.** Confirm the dashboard no longer shows the missing-key warning.
- **5.** If you plan to use Flare, no second OpenAI key is needed. The same key is reused automatically.

SETUP

# Optional Stability AI Setup

- Stability AI is optional in v4.0. If you do not want another provider account, use GPT-Image-2.5 Flare for featured images and standalone generation.
- **1.** Create a Stability AI account and API key only if you want Stable Image Core.
- **2.** Paste the key into the Stability AI API Key field in AutoPost AI Settings.

- **3.** Save the key, then choose Stability AI as the Featured Image Engine if desired.
- Flare stays fixed at Medium quality in the free plugin. Stability keeps its existing Stable Image Core behavior.

SETUP

# Configure the ChatGPT Pre-Prompt

- The pre-prompt is persistent guidance that helps the AI write content in your preferred voice and business context.
- Replace placeholder text with your business/site name, URL, what you provide, your target audience, your goals, and the tone you want.
- Keep instructions clear and practical. This pre-prompt affects supported text-generation workflows and helps improve consistency between articles.
- Use the Reset control if you want to restore the plugin default prompt.

POST CONFIGURATION

# Post Creation Settings

- **Post Creation Time Frame:** controls how queued posts are spaced for automatic creation.
- **Post Status:** choose Draft while testing, or Published if you want AutoPost AI to publish immediately when a post is created.
- **CTA:** optionally append a linked call to action to generated posts.
- **Notification Email:** optionally receive a normal post-created notification when automated creation succeeds.
- Save these settings before building your queue so scheduled behavior matches your expectations.

TOPICS

# Generate Topic Ideas

- **1.** Open **Generate Topics & Queue Posts**.
- **2.** Select a WordPress category. Uncategorized is excluded from the normal topic-generation workflow.
- **3.** Click **Suggest Topics** to request five AI ideas.
- **4.** Review the suggestions and add the ones you want.
- **5.** Use Refresh Suggestions if you want a different set.
- AutoPost AI supplies previously used topics from the same category to reduce repetition.

TOPICS

# Add Topics Manually and Manage the Queue

- If you already know the exact topic you want, add it manually from the Post Creation area.
- Choose the category, enter the topic, and add it to the queue.
- Queue items can be reviewed, edited, deleted, and processed with Create Now.
- AutoPost AI stores the topic, category, queue status, topic creation date, post creation date, and publication date.

POST CREATION

# Create a Post Now

- **1.** Find the queued topic you want.
- **2.** Click **Create Now**.
- **3.** AutoPost AI generates the article using GPT 5.4 and the saved pre-prompt.
- **4.** The plugin cleans and refines generated HTML, handles links/content processing, and inserts Pixabay inline images when available.
- **5.** The selected AI featured-image engine creates the featured image. If that fails, AutoPost AI can use Pixabay slot 6 as a fallback.
- **6.** The post is saved using the configured status and CTA behavior.
- Keep the admin page open while Create Now is running so the browser can complete the workflow.

AUTOMATION

# Automatic Post Creation with WordPress CRON

- WordPress CRON checks for eligible queued topics every 15 minutes.
- AutoPost AI uses the configured time frame and the last post creation time to decide when a queued item is due.
- Scheduled posts use the same text and featured-image logic as Create Now, including Flare or Stability AI and Pixabay fallback.
- If WP-Cron is disabled at the site/server level, automatic creation will not run until you provide an alternative cron runner.

IMAGES

# Featured Image Engine

- Choose between **OpenAI GPT-Image-2.5 Flare (Medium)** and **Stability AI Stable Image Core**.
- Flare uses the existing OpenAI API key and requires no extra quality/model settings.
- Stability AI requires the separate Stability key.
- Both manual Create Now and scheduled CRON creation use the same selected engine.
- Pixabay remains the fallback featured-image source if the AI image engine does not return a usable image.

IMAGES

# Pixabay Inline Images

- AutoPost AI uses Pixabay for inline images in the free version.
- Up to five inline images can be inserted into generated post content.
- When Pixabay does not return enough images, the bundled placeholder image can fill missing inline slots.
- The sixth Pixabay image is reserved as a featured-image fallback when available.

IMAGES

# Standalone Image Generator

- **1.** Open the **Image Generator** tab.
- **2.** Choose **GPT-Image-2.5 Flare** or **Stable Image Core**.
- **3.** Enter your image prompt.
- **4.** Optionally enter a WebP filename. Spaces are converted to dashes and the extension is handled automatically.
- **5.** Choose 16:9, 1:1, 3:2, or 2:3.
- **6.** Click Request Image.
- The result is saved to the WordPress Media Library. Flare always runs at Medium quality in the free plugin.

INTERFACE

# Post Creation and Created Posts

- The Post Creation tab shows pending queued work and created posts.
- Created posts can be opened in WordPress for review and editing.
- Use Draft status while testing so you can inspect text, links, images, and CTA output before publishing.

INTERFACE

# Settings and Dashboard Tabs

- **Generate Topics & Queue Posts:** generate AI topics and add them to the queue.
- **Post Creation:** manually add topics, review queue state, run Create Now, and review created posts.
- **Post Creation Settings:** configure time frame, post status, CTA, and notifications.
- **Image Generator:** create standalone images with Flare or Stability AI.
- **Settings:** manage OpenAI key, Stability key, pre-prompt, featured-image engine, and documentation access.
- **Go Pro:** compare Free and Pro functionality.

DATA

# Data Storage and Uninstall Behavior

- AutoPost AI stores queue records in its custom WordPress database table.
- Plugin settings are stored in WordPress options, including API keys, post settings, pre-prompt text, image preferences, and creation timing.
- Created posts receive queue-related post meta so queue records can be matched back to WordPress posts.
- On uninstall, the scheduled cron hook is cleared.
- Queue/settings deletion is controlled by the plugin's removal setting/filter so administrators can decide whether plugin data should be retained.

SERVICES

# Third-Party Services

- **OpenAI:** used for topic suggestions, post generation, keyword extraction, featured-image prompt creation, and GPT-Image-2.5 Flare image generation.
- **Stability AI:** optional, used for Stable Image Core generation when selected.
- **Pixabay:** used for inline images and featured-image fallback.
- Using these services may send prompts, topics, generation instructions, and related content to the selected provider as required to perform the requested feature.

TROUBLESHOOTING

# Common First-Step Problems

- **No topic suggestions:** confirm the OpenAI API key is saved and valid.
- **Flare image fails:** verify the OpenAI key and account/API access.
- **Stability image fails:** verify the Stability API key.
- **Automatic posts are not running:** confirm WordPress CRON is functioning and enough time has passed based on your creation time frame.
- **No Pixabay image:** the plugin may use the bundled placeholder for inline slots and may continue without an AI featured image if all fallbacks fail.
- **Changes appear stale:** clear browser/site caches and reload the AutoPost AI admin page.

## UPGRADE

### What AutoPost AI Pro v20.0 Adds

- Free v4.1 offers GPT 5.4 writing, topic queues, scheduled creation, basic AI featured images, Pixabay inline images, and a standalone Image Generator.

- Pro adds OpenAI, Anthropic Claude, and Google Gemini writing choices, plus optional DataForSEO intelligence for keywords, location, competitor gaps, and search intent.

- Create research-guided Custom Posts from PDF/Word documents and reference URLs. Use smart inline images, image editing, model controls, and cost estimates.

- Pro also adds Smart Contextual CTAs, approvals, separate publication schedules, Facebook and Google Business Profile sharing, Search Console and GA4 tracking.

## REFERENCE

### Version 4.1 Update Summary

- Updated the in-plugin Go Pro comparison and upgrade descriptions for Pro v20.0. The Free writing, image generation, and publishing workflows are unchanged.

- Optional DataForSEO research requires a separate account and may incur API usage charges. AutoPost AI Pro Manager is a separate product.