

## DOCUMENTATION

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## WordPress, Gravity Forms, and GDPR Compliance

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If you're on this page, you've probably heard about GDPR compliance, but aren't quite sure how your forms or WordPress site in general. Your best option is always to consult legal counsel, but we'll try to get things clarified for you in the meantime.

### What Is GDPR Compliance?

On May 25, 2018, new regulations will go into place within the EU that pertain to data collection. You can find the full overview via [official sources](#), but here's the gist:

In the simplest terms, what GDPR (General Data Protection Regulation) does is protect users from unauthorized data collection by requiring explicit consent. If data is being collected and stored, the individual providing the information needs to be aware of it and give permission before any action is taken.

Along with providing permission to collect data, the GDPR requires that users are able to request access to their data and have it removed if requested.

### How Can I make Gravity Forms and My WordPress Site GDPR Compliant?

Once again, we're not lawyers so you'll want to confirm this with legal counsel, but here's our recommendation:

#### Providing Consent

The easiest way to comply would be to add a required checkbox to any forms that need to be compliant. Adding a simple checkbox field that states something along the lines of *"I consent to my submitted data being collected and stored"* will usually do the trick.

Be sure to make it a required field, and the first part is done. This way, you'll know that every submission is compliant because without providing consent, the submission would not complete.

If you are also using a feed based add-on with your form, such as MailChimp, you can configure conditional logic on the feed so it will only be processed if the user has checked a checkbox field. See the [Conditional List Subscriptions](#) article for more details.

## Data Requests

Part of GDPR compliance also requires that users are able to request access to their data at any time. To handle this, the data could be requested manually or automatically using either a bit of custom code, or an add-on such as GravityView. Data modifications would be as simple as editing the form entry.

## GDPR Plugins

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The following third-party plugins can help with GDPR compliance, they also have integrations for Gravity Forms:

- [WP GDPR by Appsaloon](#)
- [WP GDPR Compliance by Van Ons](#)
- [The GDPR Framework by Codelight](#)
- [Gravity Forms Privacy AddOn by Tela](#)
- [Double Opt In for Gravity Forms by Albert Brückmann](#)

## FAQ

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### Can I prevent the IP address being saved in the entry?

The `gform_ip_address` filter can be used in the theme `functions.php` file or a custom functionality plugin along with the WordPress `__return_empty_string` function to replace the IP address with an empty string e.g.

```
add_filter( 'gform_ip_address', '__return_empty_string' );
```

If you would prefer not to use custom code the [Encrypted Fields add-on by PluginOwl](#) can be configured to remove or not store the IP address.

### Can I encrypt the field values before they are saved to the entry?

We recommend the using the [Encrypted Fields add-on by PluginOwl](#) to configure encryption of the field values.

## Can I prevent Gravity Forms saving the entries to the database?

It's important to note that GDPR does not prohibit saving of personal data to the database, it just requires that you to gain consent before doing so.

While you can't currently prevent Gravity Forms saving the entries you can use custom code or a third-party add-on to delete them during submission, after the notifications and add-on feeds are processed. There are also add-ons which can automatically delete entries on a schedule. See the [Delete Entry Data after Submission](#) article for more details.

## Can the user view or edit their own submissions?

Allowing the user to view or edit their own submissions is not a built-in feature of Gravity Forms but is made possible by third-party add-ons such as [GravityView](#) by Katz Web Services, Inc. or [Gravity Forms Sticky List](#) by 13pixon.

## Are the entries sent to gravityforms.com?

No. The form submissions (entries) are saved to your sites WordPress database. The data would only leave your site if you configure a notification email or an add-on to send it elsewhere.

## Does Gravity Forms set any cookies?

Gravity Forms does not set any cookies on the front-end of the site. It does set a cookie on the entry detail page in the admin when an admin views the entry and checks the show empty fields checkbox, that cookie is named `gf_display_empty_fields`.

## End

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We hope we've clarified things a bit for you on making your forms GDPR compliant. If you have any additional questions, feel free to reach out to support. Of course, for specific details on the legal requirements, it's always best to talk to a lawyer.

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Last modified: June 7, 2018