CODE CRAFT
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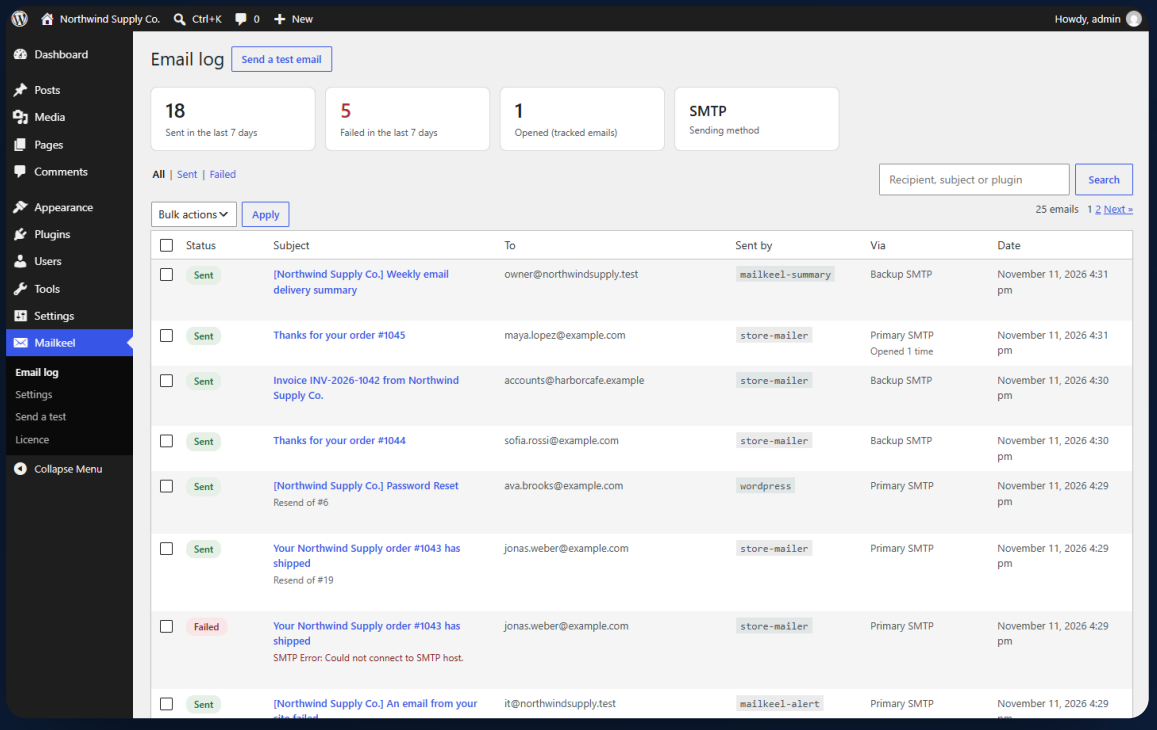
WORDPRESS PLUGIN · USER GUIDE

Mailkeel — WordPress SMTP Plugin & Email Log

Version 1.0.0 · Installation, licence activation, every setting explained, FAQ and troubleshooting.



coodecraft.com/market/product/wp-smtp-mail-log · support: coodecraft.com/contact

Mailkeel — SMTP & Email Log: user guide

Mailkeel sends the email your WordPress site sends (password resets, contact forms, WooCommerce order emails, plugin notifications — anything that uses `wp_mail()`) through an SMTP server you choose, and keeps a log of every message so you can see what was sent, what failed and why.

- **Free**: SMTP connection with provider presets, encryption options, encrypted password, From address, test email with the SMTP conversation, email log with a safe viewer, search and filters, retention cleanup.
- **Pro**: resend failed emails (one or many), backup SMTP failover, failure alerts, per-email-type routing, weekly delivery summary, optional open tracking.

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1. Installation

1. In WordPress go to **Plugins** → **Add New** → **Upload Plugin**, choose the Free or Pro `.zip` from your Code Craft account and click **Install Now**, then **Activate**.
2. A new **Mailkeel** menu appears in the admin sidebar. Logging starts straight away; until you switch SMTP on, email is still sent the WordPress default way.

To move from Free to Pro, delete the Free plugin and install the Pro zip. Your settings and log are kept unless you ticked "Delete all plugin data" (see section 7).

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2. Licence activation (Pro)

1. Open **Mailkeel** → **Licence**.
2. Paste the licence key from your purchase email and click **Activate licence**.
3. Pro features unlock once coodecraft.com confirms the key. Each licence is for one site.

Monthly and yearly keys switch Pro off when they end (you get a notice three days before). Your settings and log are kept and the Free features keep working. After renewing, click **I have paid — check again** on the Licence screen.

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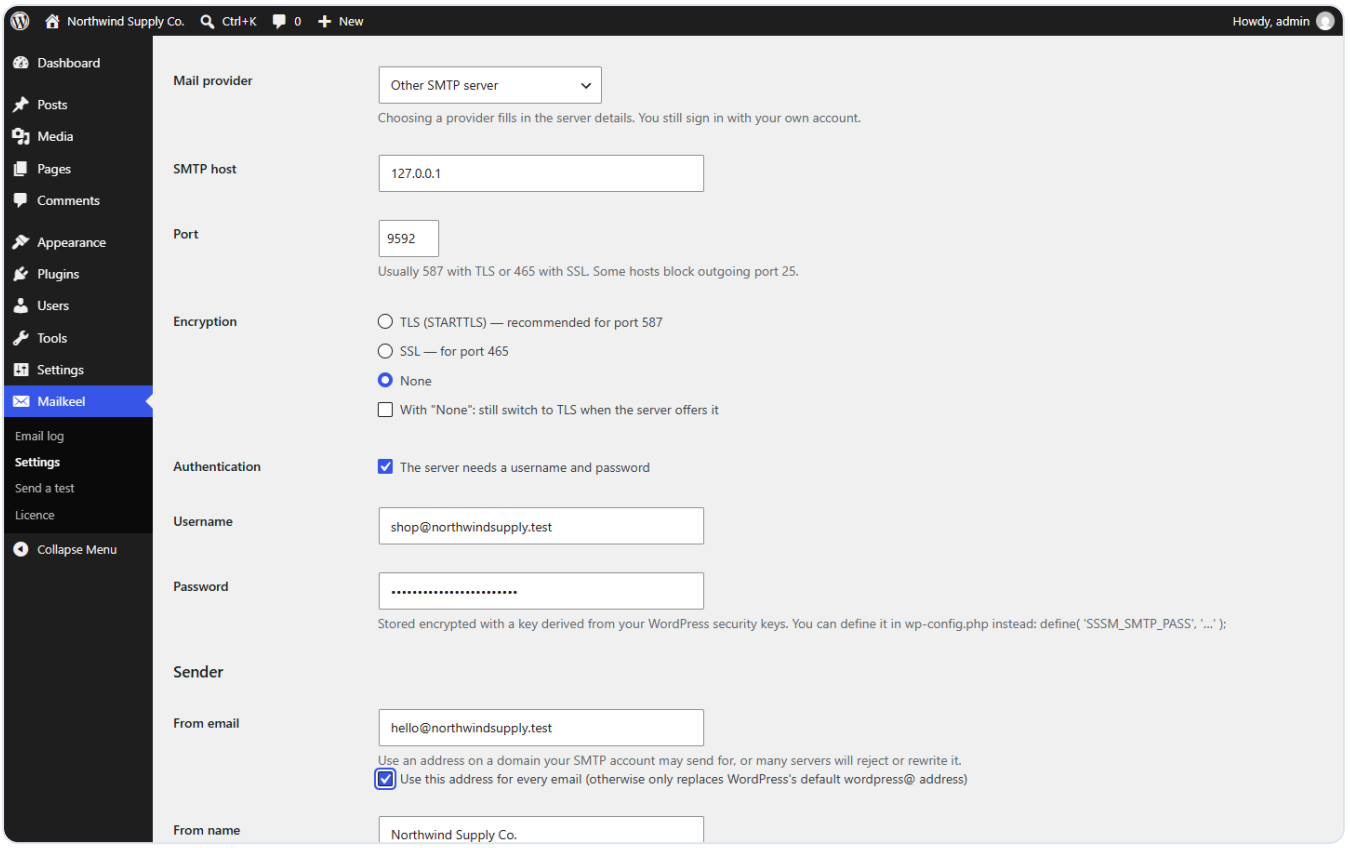
3. Connect your SMTP server — Mailkeel → Settings → SMTP connection

Screenshot:



1. Under **Send email with**, choose **My SMTP server**.
2. Pick your **Mail provider**. Mailkeel fills in the host, port and encryption for Gmail / Google Workspace, Outlook.com, Microsoft 365, Zoho, Yahoo, SendGrid, Mailgun, Brevo, Amazon SES and Postmark (their SMTP relays). For anything else choose **Other SMTP server** and type the details from your host.
3. **Encryption**: TLS (STARTTLS) for port 587, SSL for port 465, or None. With None you can still let Mailkeel switch to TLS when the server offers it.
4. Tick **Authentication** and enter your **Username** and **Password**.
   - Gmail and Yahoo need an *app password*, not your normal password.
   - Microsoft is retiring password sign-in for SMTP on many accounts; OAuth sign-in is not supported yet.
5. **Sender**: set the From email (use an address your SMTP account may send for) and From name. "Use this address for every email" overrides the From address other plugins set; otherwise Mailkeel only replaces WordPress's default `wordpress@` address. **Return path** sends bounces to the From address.
6. Click **Save settings**.

How the password is protected

- The password field is always empty after saving. The screen only says "A password is saved (encrypted)". Leave the field empty to keep it; tick **Remove the saved password** to delete it.
- It is encrypted with a key derived from the security keys and salts in `wp-config.php`. That protects you if only the database leaks (a stolen backup, an SQL injection elsewhere). It does not protect

against someone who can read your server's files. If your `wp-config.php` has no unique security keys, Mailkeel shows a warning.

- If the security keys change, the saved password can no longer be decrypted; Mailkeel tells you to enter it again.

Keep credentials in wp-config.php instead

Add any of these to `wp-config.php` and the matching fields become read-only:

```
define( 'SSSM_SMTP_HOST', 'smtp.example.com' ); // also switches SMTP on
define( 'SSSM_SMTP_PORT', 587 );
define( 'SSSM_SMTP_ENCRYPTION', 'tls' );         // tls, ssl or none
define( 'SSSM_SMTP_AUTH', true );
define( 'SSSM_SMTP_USER', 'you@example.com' );
define( 'SSSM_SMTP_PASS', 'your-password' );
```

The Pro backup server uses the same names starting with `SSSM_BACKUP_SMTP_`.

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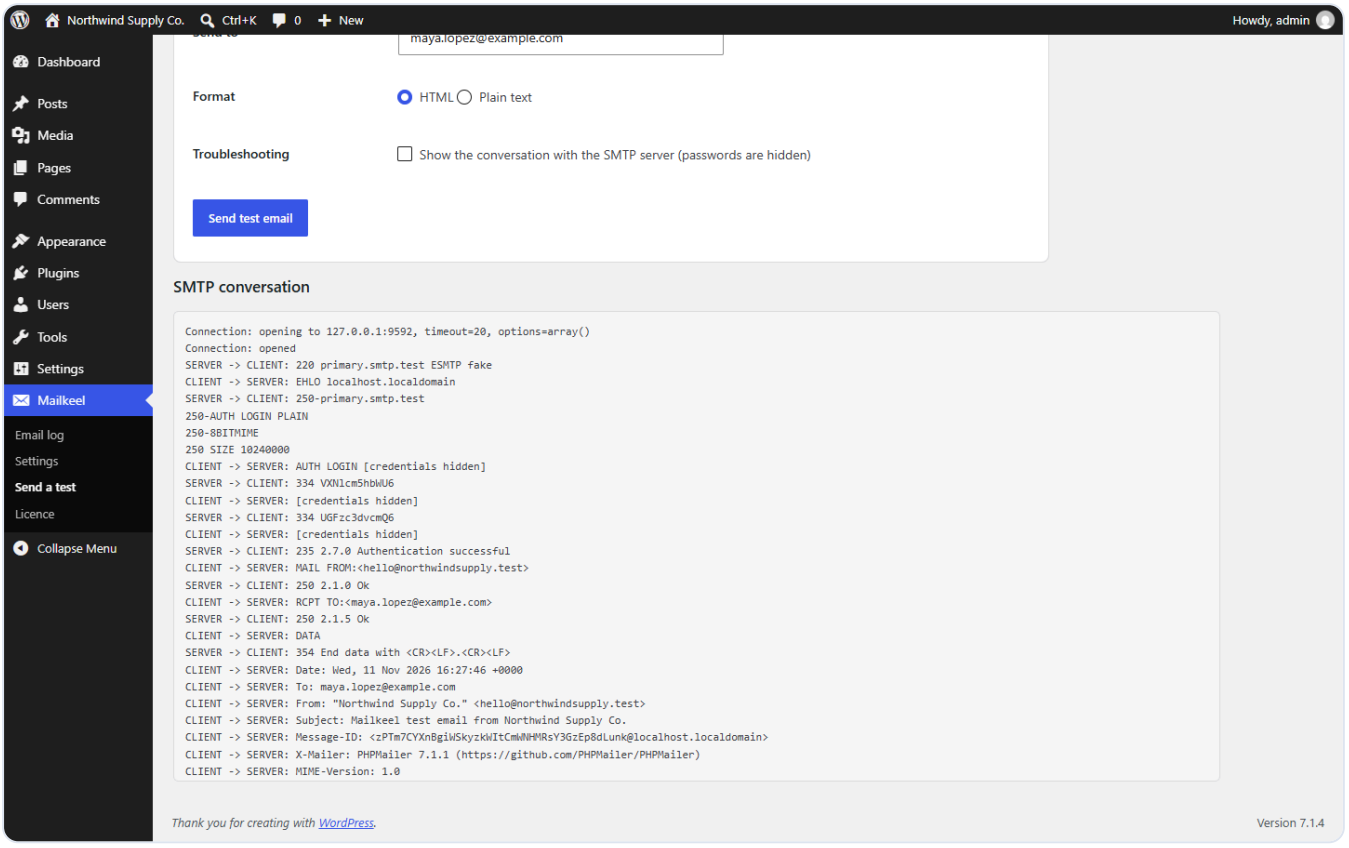
4. Send a test email — Mailkeel → Send a test

Screenshot:



1. Enter an address you can check, choose HTML or Plain text.
2. Tick **Show the conversation with the SMTP server** if you are troubleshooting.

3. Click **Send test email**. You get a success message, or the exact error with advice (wrong password, blocked port, rejected sender).

In the SMTP conversation the login lines are replaced with `[credentials hidden]`.

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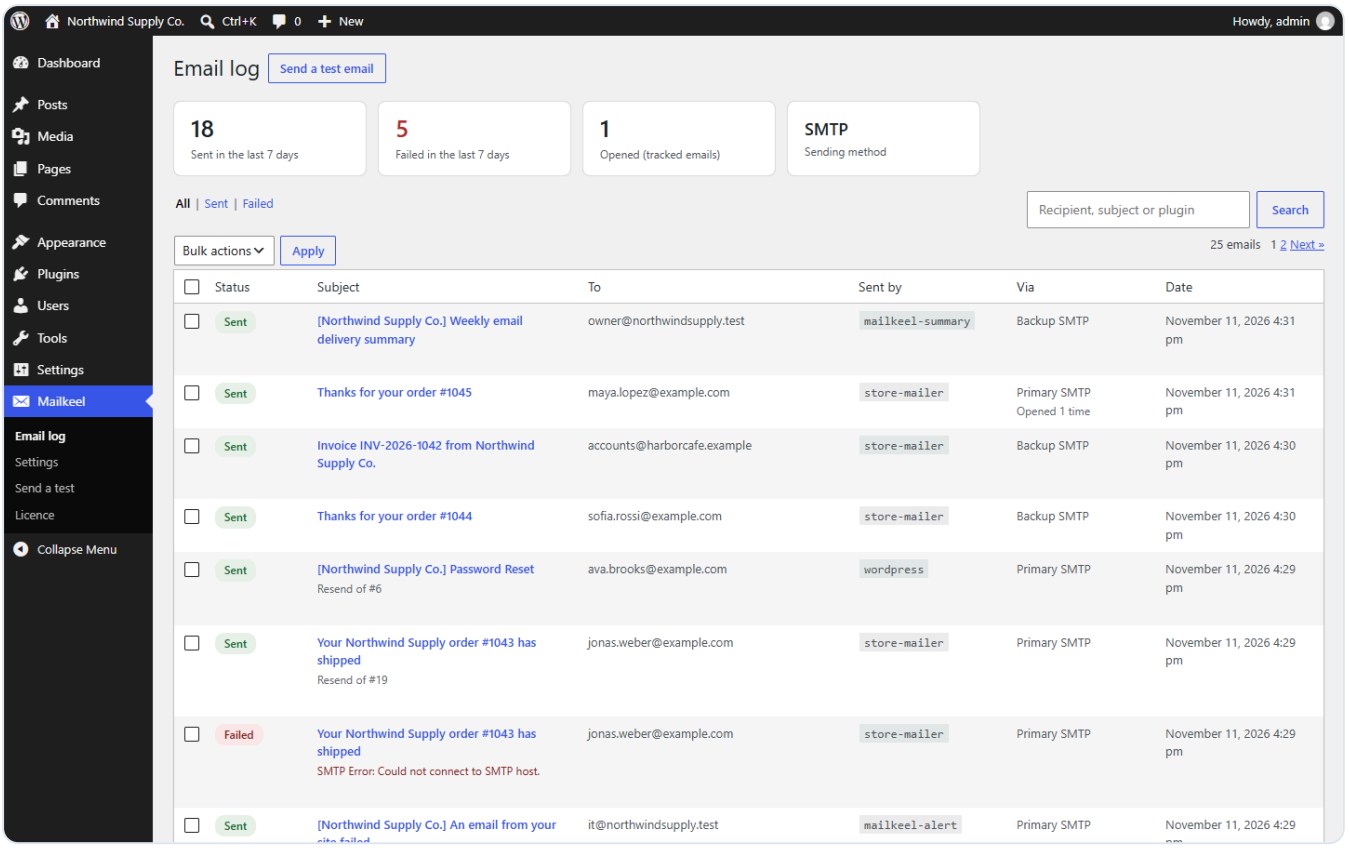
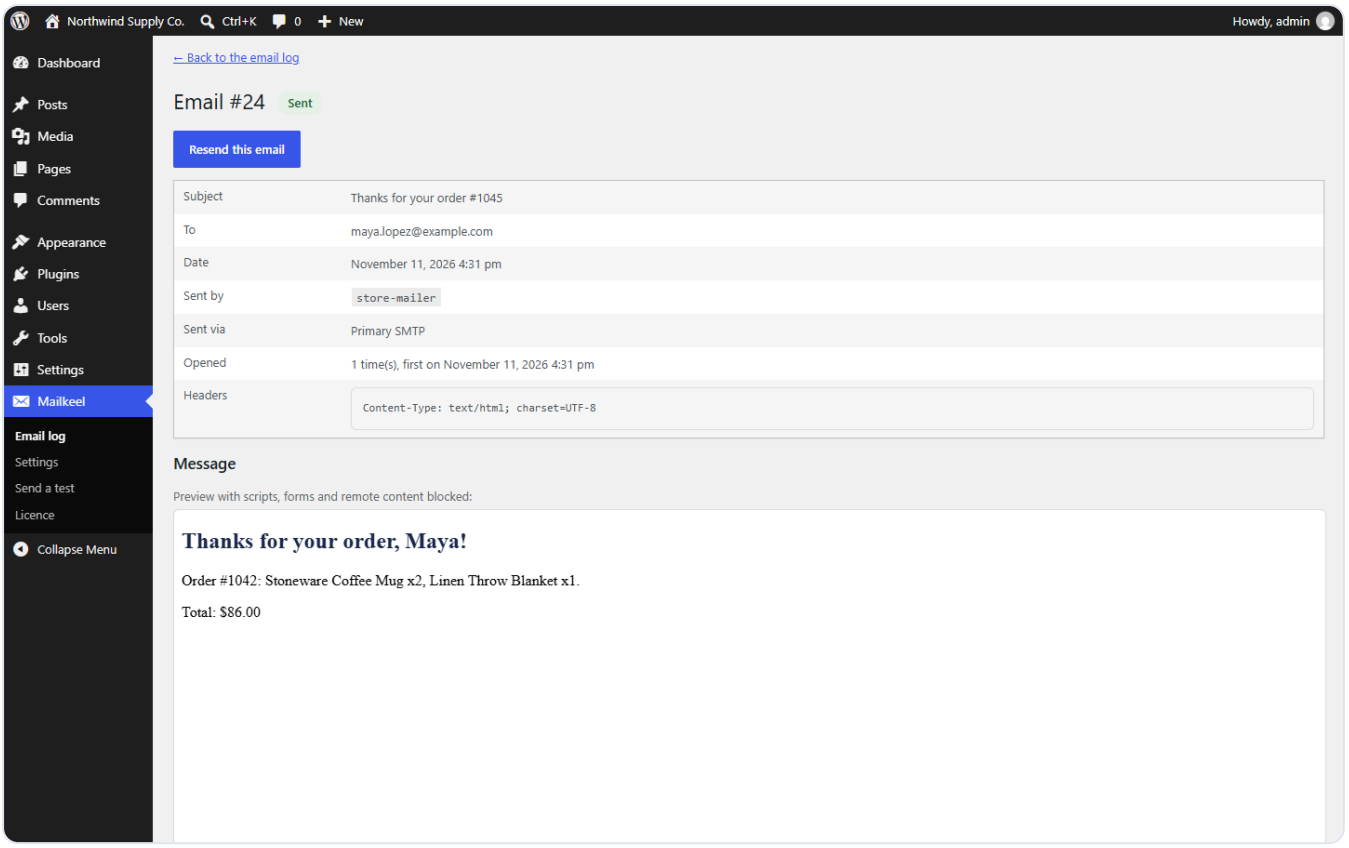
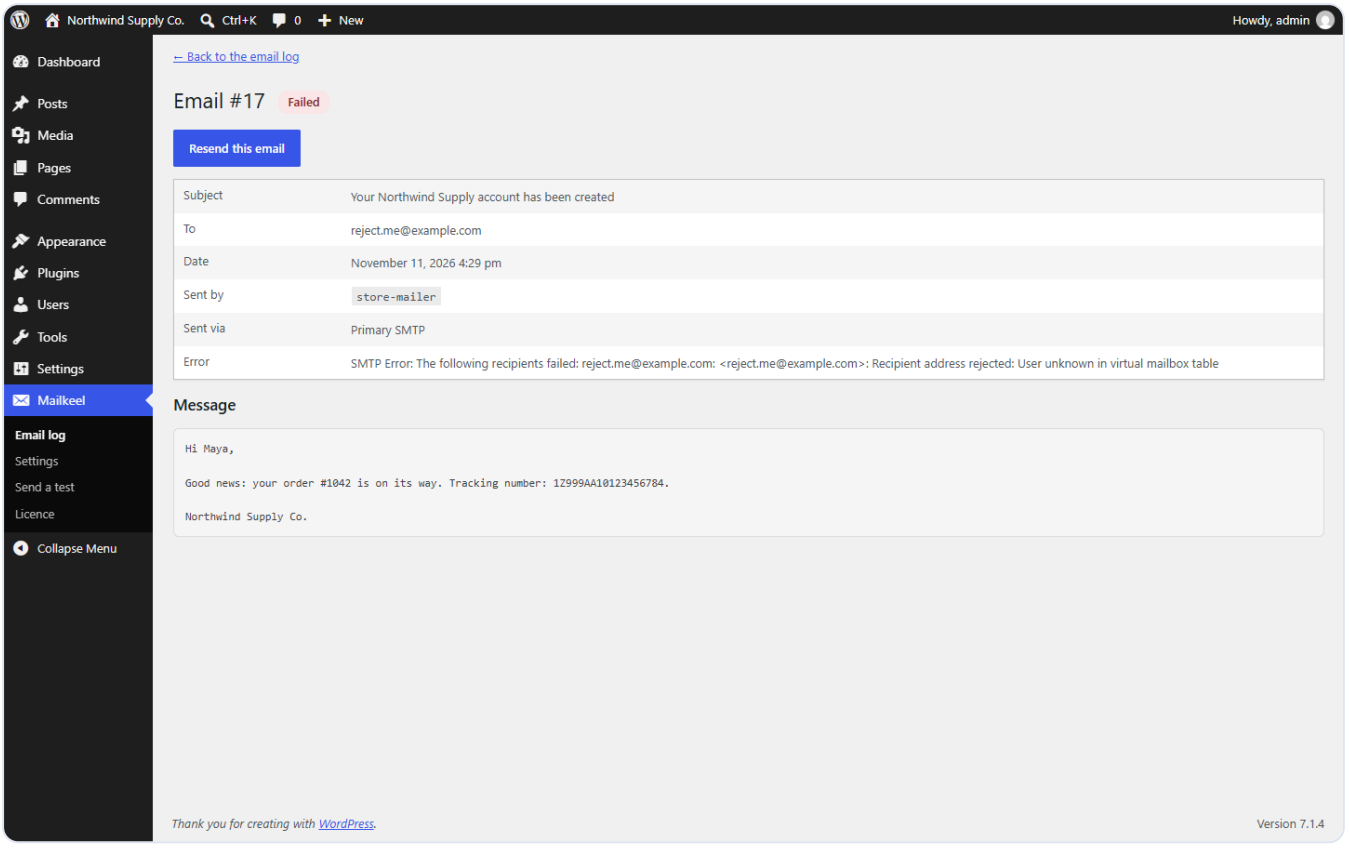
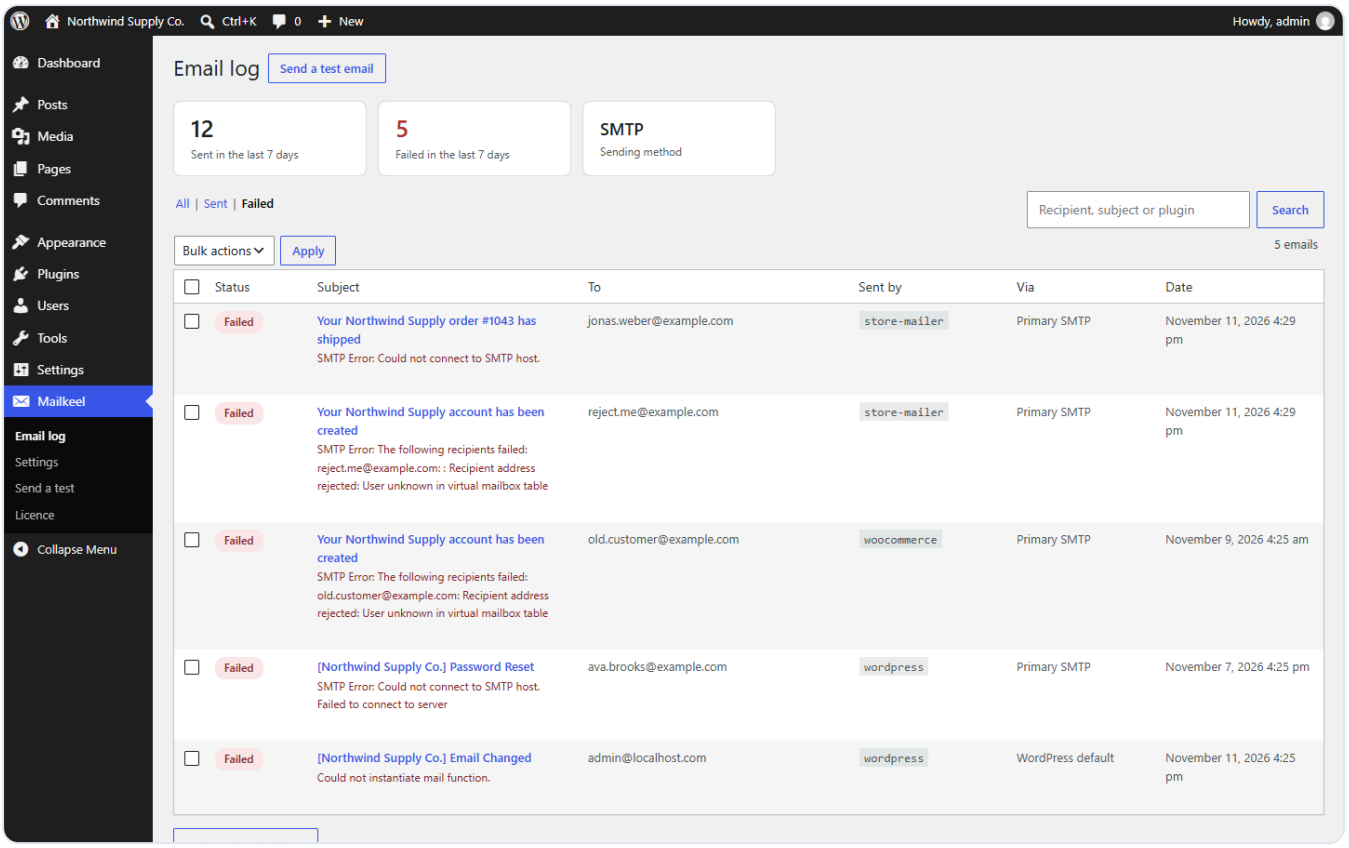
5. The email log — Mailkeel → Email log

Screenshots: , , ,




Northwind Supply Co.
Ctrl+K
0
New
Howdy, admin
Dashboard
Posts
Media
Pages
Comments
Appearance
Plugins
Users
Tools
Settings
Mailkeel
Email log
Settings
Send a test
Licence
Collapse Menu
← Back to the email log
Email #24
Sent
Resend this email
Subject
Thanks for your order #1045
To
maya.lopez@example.com
Date
November 11, 2026 4:31 pm
Sent by
store-mailer
Sent via
Primary SMTP
Opened
1 time(s), first on November 11, 2026 4:31 pm
Headers
Content-Type: text/html; charset=UTF-8
Message
Preview with scripts, forms and remote content blocked:
Thanks for your order, Maya!
Order #1042: Stoneware Coffee Mug x2, Linen Throw Blanket x1.
Total: $86.00


Northwind Supply Co.
Ctrl+K
0
New
Howdy, admin
Dashboard
Posts
Media
Pages
Comments
Appearance
Plugins
Users
Tools
Settings
Mailkeel
Email log
Settings
Send a test
Licence
Collapse Menu
← Back to the email log
Email #17
Failed
Resend this email
Subject
Your Northwind Supply account has been created
To
reject.me@example.com
Date
November 11, 2026 4:29 pm
Sent by
store-mailer
Sent via
Primary SMTP
Error
SMTP Error: The following recipients failed: reject.me@example.com: <reject.me@example.com>: Recipient address rejected: User unknown in virtual mailbox table
Message
Hi Maya,
Good news: your order #1042 is on its way. Tracking number: 1Z999AA10123456784.
Northwind Supply Co.
Thank you for creating with WordPress.
Version 7.1.4



- Cards at the top show emails sent and failed in the last 7 days and the sending method.
- Each row shows the status, subject, recipient, **Sent by** (the plugin that called `wp_mail()`, e.g. `woocommerce`, `contact-form-7` or `wordpress` for core), **Via** (WordPress default, primary SMTP or backup SMTP) and the date. Failed rows show the server's error.
- Filter by **Sent** or **Failed**, search by recipient, subject or plugin, select rows and **Delete**, or **Delete the whole log**.
- **View** opens one email: details, error, notes (e.g. "sent through the backup server"), headers, attachments (file names) and the content. Plain-text emails are shown as text. HTML emails are shown in a sandboxed preview where scripts, forms and remote images are blocked, with the escaped HTML source underneath. Content from an email can never run in your admin.

Sent means your SMTP server accepted the message. It cannot tell whether the message reached the inbox.

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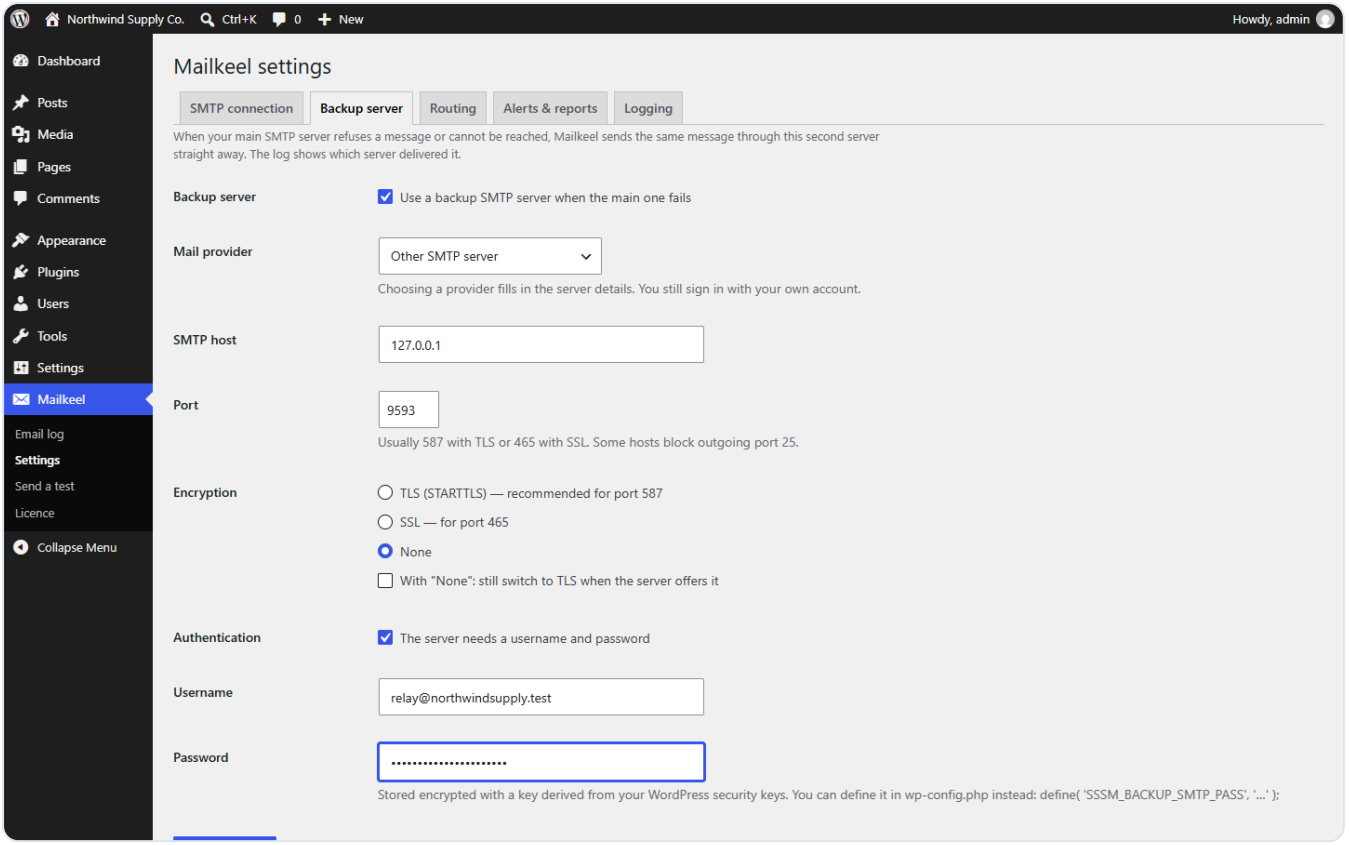
6. Pro features

Resend failed emails

On the log, hover a row and click **Resend**, or open an email and click **Resend this email**. To resend several, tick them, choose **Resend** in Bulk actions and click **Apply** (up to 25 at a time). Each resend gets its own log entry ("Resend of #N"), and the original gets a note "Resent as #N". Emails logged with content logging off cannot be resent. Attachments are re-attached only if the files still exist on the server.

Backup SMTP failover — Settings → Backup server

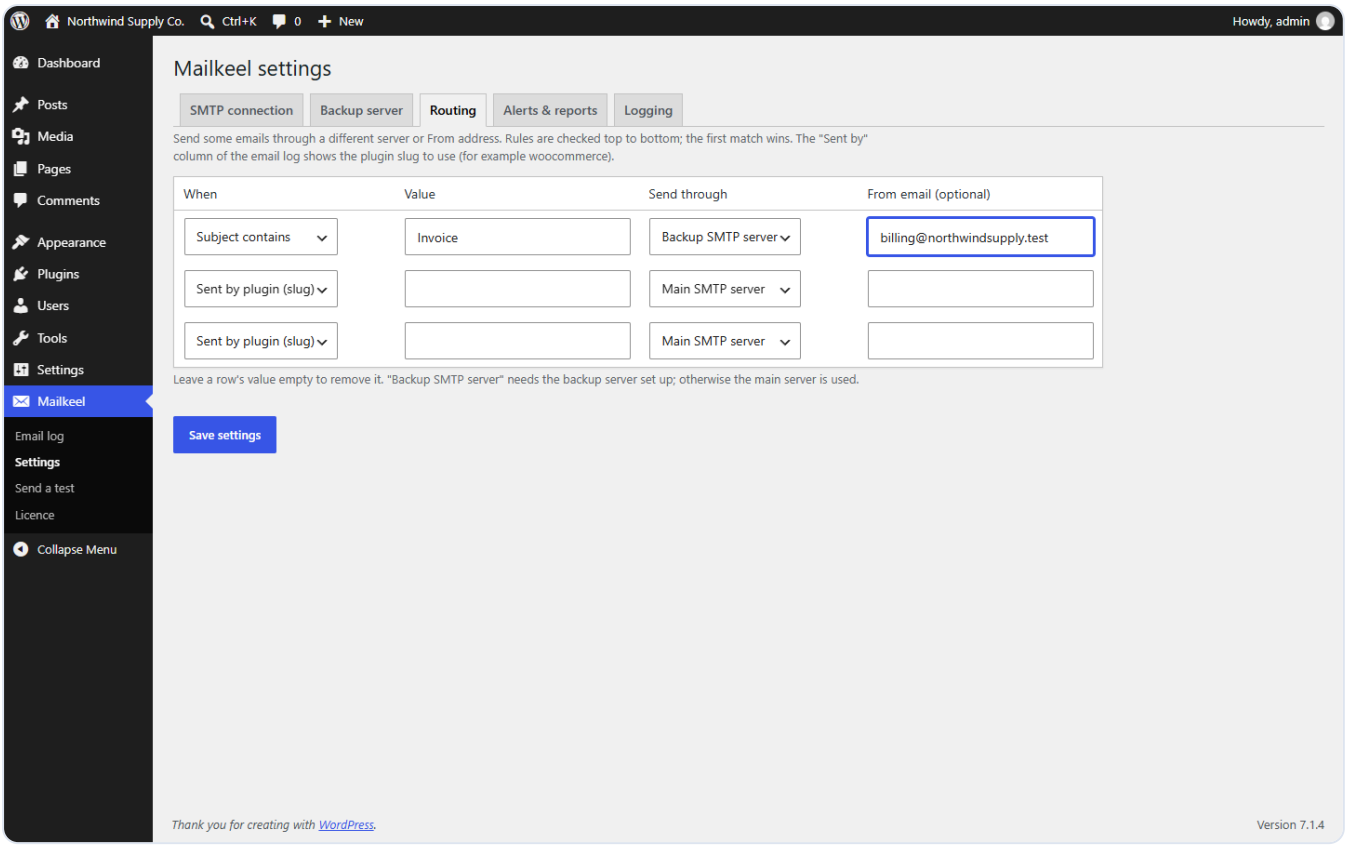
Screenshot:



Tick **Use a backup SMTP server when the main one fails** and enter a second SMTP server. When the main server refuses a message or cannot be reached, the same message is sent through the backup straight away; `wp_mail()` reports success, and the log shows "Backup SMTP" with a note explaining why.

Routing — Settings → Routing

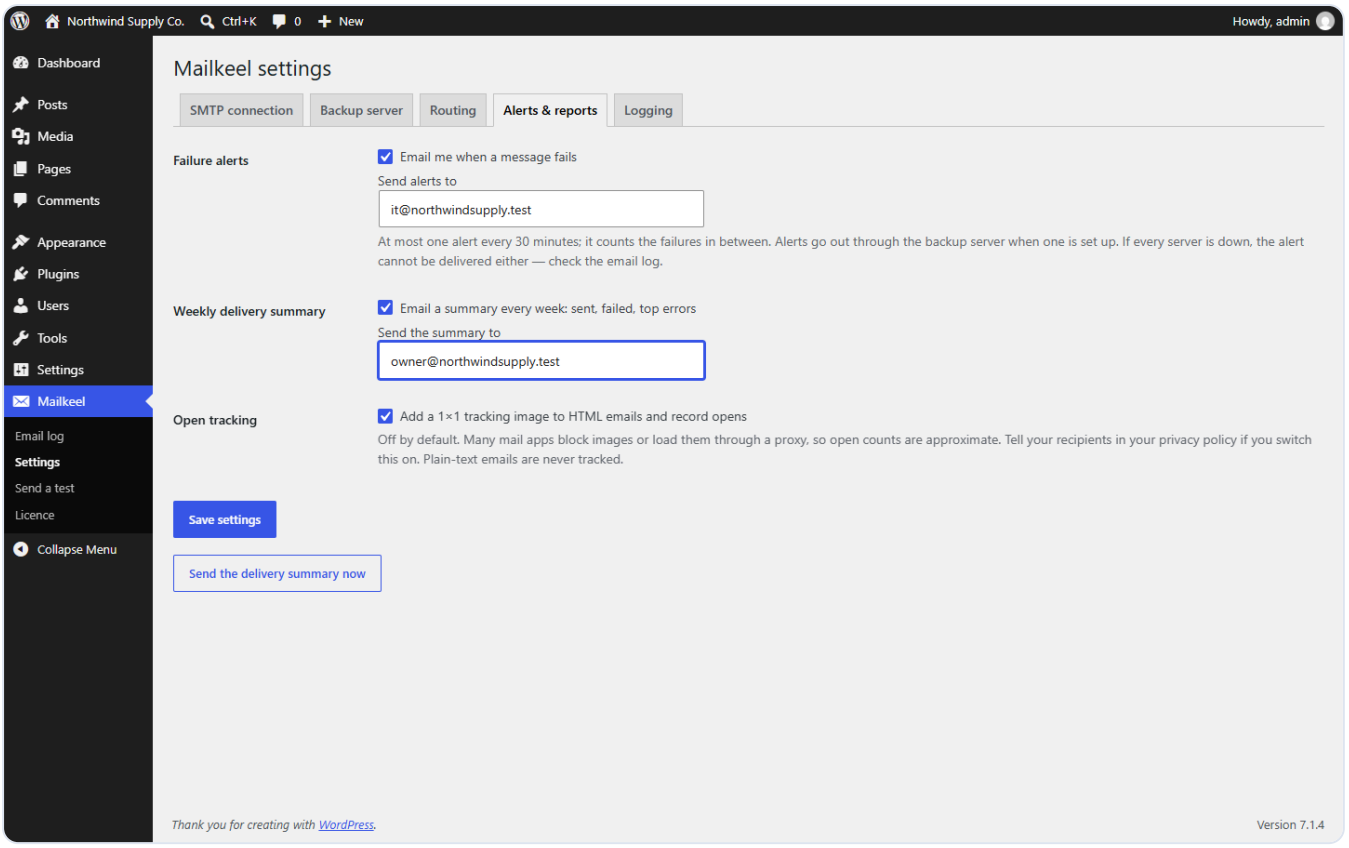
Screenshot:



Rules are checked top to bottom; the first match wins. Match **Sent by plugin** (the slug from the log's "Sent by" column, e.g. `woocommerce`), **Subject contains** or **Recipient contains**, then choose the main or backup server and, optionally, a different From email. Example: subject contains "Invoice" → backup server, From `billing@yourdomain`.

Failure alerts, weekly summary, open tracking — Settings → Alerts & reports

Screenshot:



- **Failure alerts** email you when a message fails, at most once every 30 minutes, with a count of the failures in between and a link to the log entry. Alerts use the backup server when one is set up. If every server is down the alert cannot be delivered either.
- **Weekly delivery summary**: sent, failed and the most common errors of the last 7 days, every Monday. **Send the delivery summary now** sends one immediately.
- **Open tracking** (off by default) adds a 1×1 image to HTML emails and counts opens. Many mail apps block or proxy images, so counts are approximate. Mention it in your privacy policy if you switch it on. Plain-text emails are never tracked.

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7. Logging settings — Settings → Logging

- **Log every email** and **Also store the content and headers** (needed to view and resend). Emails can contain personal data and password-reset links; only administrators can see the log.
- **Keep log entries for N days** (default 30, 0 keeps everything). Older entries are deleted once a day; **Delete entries older than the retention period now** runs it immediately.
- **Delete all plugin data when the plugin is deleted**: off by default. When ticked, deleting the plugin removes the settings, saved passwords and the log table.

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8. FAQ

Will this fix "WordPress email not sending"? Usually. The common cause is that PHP mail() is blocked or unauthenticated; a real SMTP login fixes that. The test screen shows the exact error if not.

Are passwords ever written to the log or debug.log? No. Error messages and the SMTP conversation have passwords and login lines removed, and Mailkeel writes nothing to debug.log.

Does it use the SendGrid / Mailgun / SES web APIs? No — it connects to their SMTP relays.

Does it work with WooCommerce? Yes, WooCommerce emails go through `wp_mail()`, are sent over SMTP and show `woocommerce` in the "Sent by" column.

Multisite? Not tested yet; install it per site.

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9. Troubleshooting

Problem	What to do
"Could not authenticate"	Wrong username/password, or the provider needs an app password.
"Could not connect to SMTP host"	Wrong host or port, or your web host blocks it. Try 587 with TLS or 465 with SSL, or ask your host.
"Recipient address rejected" / sender rejected	The address does not exist, or the From email is not allowed for your SMTP account.
"The saved password can no longer be decrypted"	Your WordPress security keys changed. Enter the password again.
Emails sent but land in spam	Set up SPF, DKIM and DMARC for your domain with your mail provider.