The Linux desktop is a tricky space. It's no arena for amateurs, newbs or those who expect peace and quite all the time. Most of the time, the desktop isn't a passive background for your actual work, you need to actively fight it and wrestle it, and that gets boring after a while. Plasma stands out in this domain as a beacon of consistency, great looks, and excellent functionality. You can use it without having to have nerd epaulettes on your shoulders. In a way, it's approaching the idea of product, the way markets and consumers perceive the concept.

When you consider the fact that Plasma is mostly volunteer work - with some paid contributions, of course, the results look pretty neat. Of course, that's never an excuse for a lack of professionalism, but when you consider the many products out there, with significant backing, and then look at the poor state of their UI, usability and user focus, Plasma starts to look like a real bargain. Recently, I've been warming up more and more to its many sweet features. And by recently, I mean the last 2-3 years. However, let's not forget the soul-wrenching regressions and random bugs. Those are never too far off in the Linux world. But as things stand, Plasma is a really phenomenal desktop, and I hope the KDE team will be able to take it to the next level - make it something that even the normies can enjoy. One can hope.

P.S. I hope you will forgive me the use of Imperial units in the title; replacing miles for kilometers just doesn't make it into a useful phrase.