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How to Install KDE Plasma in Linux Desktop

Aaron Kili | Last Updated: August 18, 2021 | Fedora, Linux Desktop, Linux Mint, OpenSuse, Ubuntu | 162 Comments

KDE is a well-known desktop environment for Unix-like systems designed for users who wants to have a nice desktop environment for their machines, It is one of the most used desktop interfaces out there.

[You might also like: [10 Best and Most Popular Linux Desktop Environments of All Time](#)]

In the past few years, a lot of work has been geared towards improving the KDE desktop, with the latest stable release **KDE Plasma 5** desktop series comes with some amazing features and bringing many improvements to the original task-manager, KRunner, including Wayland support which came around in **Plasma 5** and activities as well, plus a more refined look and feel.

KDE Plasma 5 Features



There is a lot of new features in KDE Plasma 5, here's a list of the most important new features.

- KDE 5 applications were rewritten using Qt 5; the next generation of the famous Qt library to design graphical interfaces, which means that KDE 5 apps will be faster than KDE 4 besides a better usage of GPU from KDE 5 applications.
- Completely new look for KDE 5 Plasma, with the new **slicker plasma theme**, KDE 5 Plasma is much more beautiful than KDE 4.x with the new flat design, besides the nice look, the "slicker" theme is lighter than the default theme for KDE.
- The Start menu for KDE 5 Plasma has been redesigned and the notifications area has also been redesigned, with fewer popup windows providing a better user experience to access the notifications.
- The lock screen window is also redesigned with a better login interface.
- Smoother performance, KDE 5 Plasma applications are rendered upon the top of the OpenGL scenegraph which means that KDE 5 programs have the priority when being rendered beside other processes.
- Hardware-acceleration migration is now complete, this means that Plasma 5 rendering will be faster now because of the fully-usage of the GPU.
- A nice set of new wallpapers will look perfect on the default theme.
- Many other features that you will explore on your own.

On **27 July 2021**, the makers of KDE released yet another Plasma feature update, **Plasma 5.22.4**. It ships in with several exciting new features and improvements, bringing a classic feel to your desktop. For more details, see the [release notes](#).

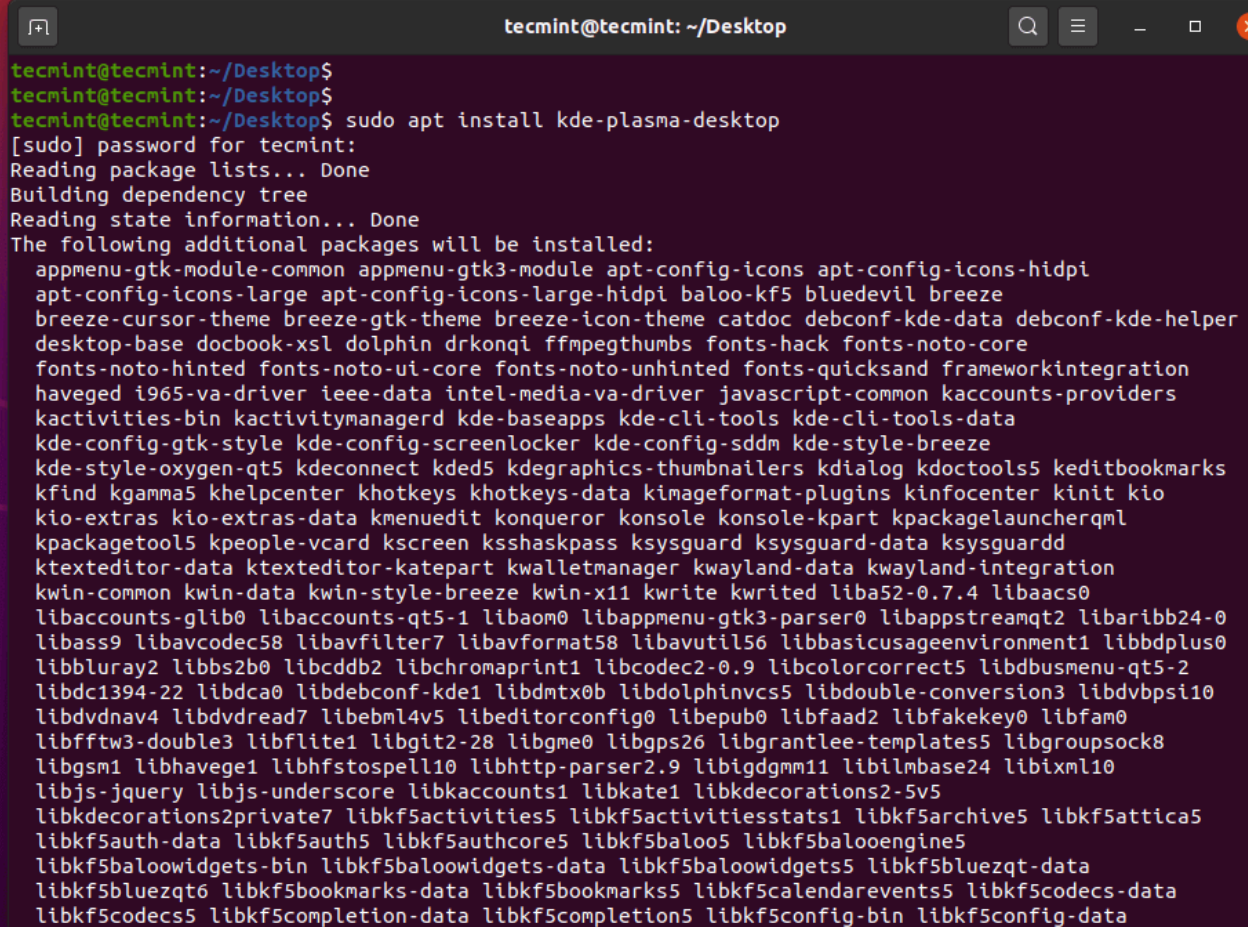
Installation of KDE Plasma in Linux

To install **KDE Plasma** on **Ubuntu 20.04** and **Linux Mint 20**, you have to use the default repository using the following [apt commands](#).

Install KDE Plasma On Ubuntu 20.04



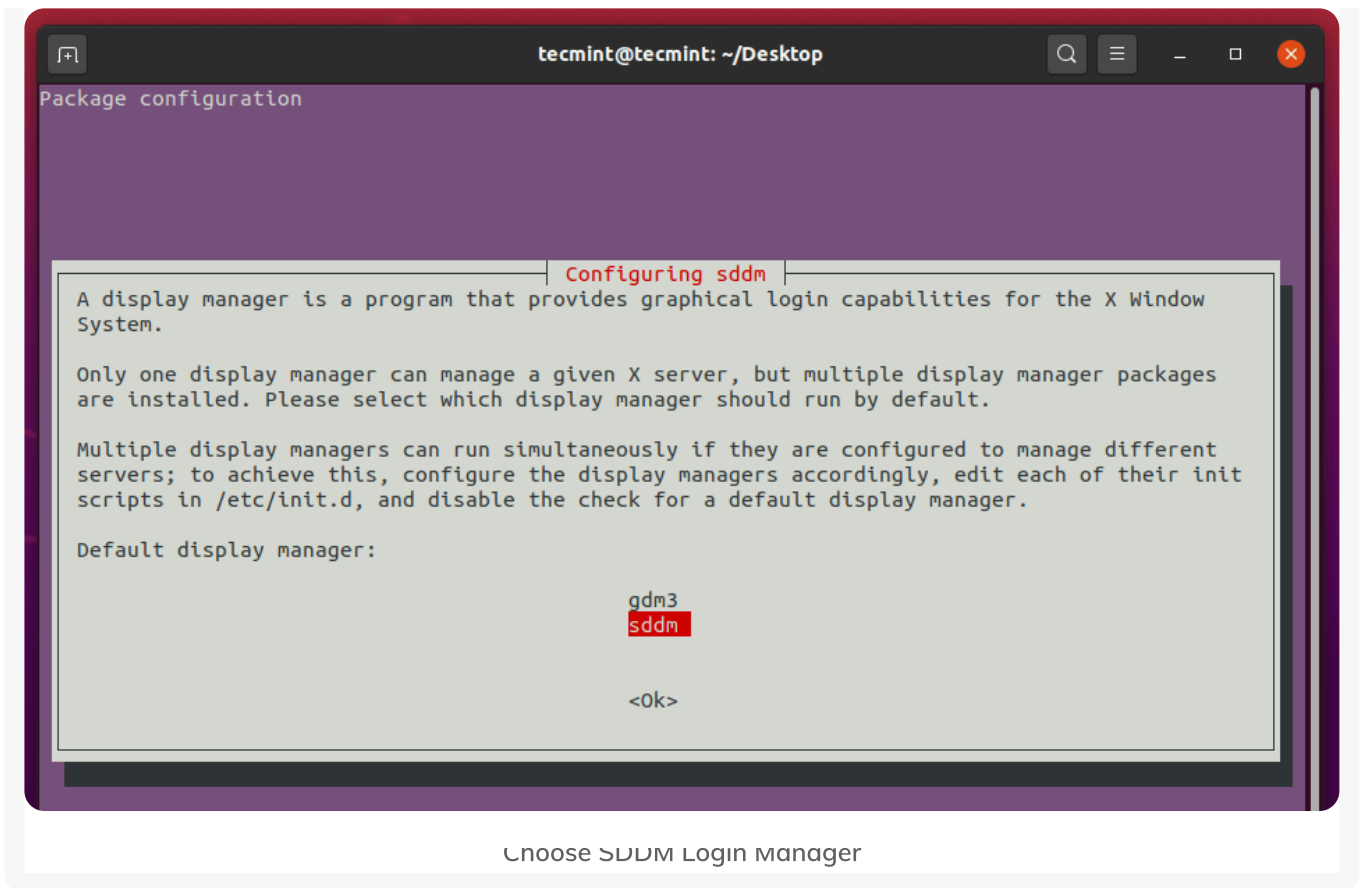
```
$ sudo apt update
$ sudo apt install kde-plasma-desktop
```



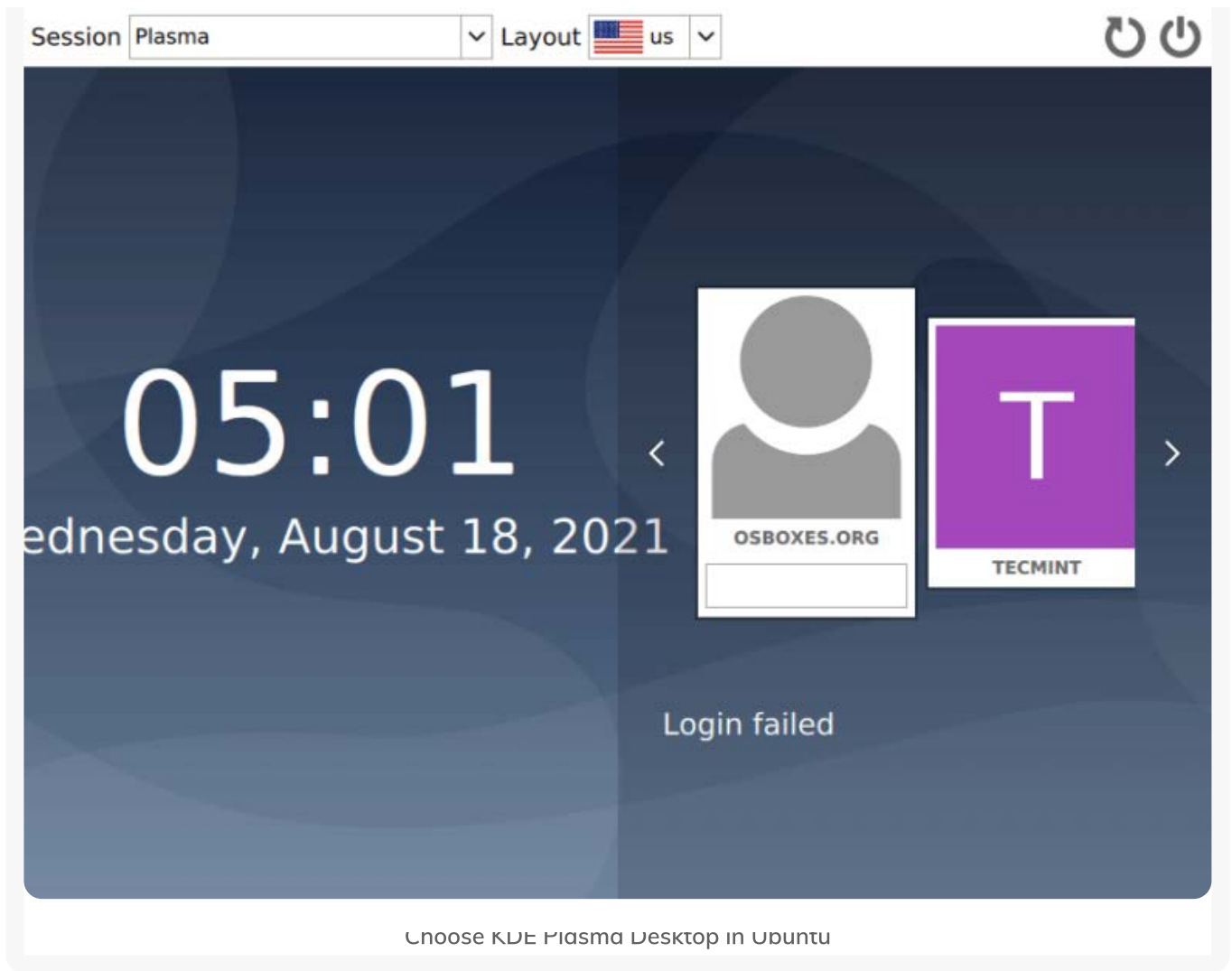
```
tecmin@tecmin: ~/Desktop
tecmin@tecmin:~/Desktop$
tecmin@tecmin:~/Desktop$ sudo apt install kde-plasma-desktop
[sudo] password for tecmin:
Reading package lists... Done
Building dependency tree
Reading state information... Done
The following additional packages will be installed:
  appmenu-gtk-module-common appmenu-gtk3-module apt-config-icons apt-config-icons-hidpi
  apt-config-icons-large apt-config-icons-large-hidpi baloo-kf5 bluedevil breeze
  breeze-cursor-theme breeze-gtk-theme breeze-icon-theme catdoc debconf-kde-data debconf-kde-helper
  desktop-base docbook-xsl dolphin drkonqi ffmpegthumbs fonts-hack fonts-noto-core
  fonts-noto-hinted fonts-noto-ui-core fonts-noto-unhinted fonts-quickssand frameworkintegration
  haveged i965-vd-driver ieee-data intel-media-vd-driver javascript-common kaccounts-providers
  kactivities-bin kactivitymanagerd kde-baseapps kde-cli-tools kde-cli-tools-data
  kde-config-gtk-style kde-config-screenlocker kde-config-sddm kde-style-breeze
  kde-style-oxygen-qt5 kdeconnect kded5 kdeggraphics-thumbnailers kdialog kdoctools5 keditbookmarks
  kfind kgamma5 khelpcenter khotkeys khotkeys-data kimageformat-plugins kinfocenter kinit kio
  kio-extras kio-extras-data kmenuedit konqueror konsole konsole-kpart kpackagelauncherqml
  kpackagekit5 kpeople-vcards kscreen ksshaskpass ksysguard ksysguard-data ksysguardd
  ktexteditor-data ktexteditor-katepart kwalletmanager kwayland-data kwayland-integration
  kwin-common kwin-data kwin-style-breeze kwin-x11 kwrite kwrited liba52-0.7.4 libaacs0
  libaccounts-glib0 libaccounts-qt5-1 libaom0 libappmenu-gtk3-parser0 libappstreamqt2 libaribb24-0
  libass9 libavcodec58 libavfilter7 libavformat58 libavutil56 libbasicusageenvironment1 libbdplus0
  libbluray2 libbs2b0 libcdcb2 libchromaprint1 libcodec2-0.9 libcolorcorrect5 libdbusmenu-qt5-2
  libdca0 libdebconf-kde1 libdmtx0b libdolphinvc5 libdouble-conversion3 libdvbpsi10
  libdvnav4 libdvread7 libebml4v5 libeditorconfig0 libepub0 libfaad2 libfakekey0 libfam0
  libfftw3-double3 libflite1 libgit2-28 libgme0 libgps26 libgrantlee-templates5 libgroupsock8
  libgsm1 libhavege1 libhfstospell10 libhttp-parser2.9 libigdgmm11 libilmbase24 libixml10
  libjs-jquery libjs-underscore libkaccounts1 libkate1 libkdecorations2-5v5
  libkdecorations2private7 libkf5activities5 libkf5activitiesstats1 libkf5archive5 libkf5attica5
  libkf5auth-data libkf5auth5 libkf5authcore5 libkf5baloo5 libkf5balooengine5
  libkf5baloowidgets-bin libkf5baloowidgets-data libkf5baloowidgets5 libkf5bluezqt-data
  libkf5bluezqt6 libkf5bookmarks-data libkf5bookmarks5 libkf5calendarevents5 libkf5codecs-data
  libkf5codecs5 libkf5completion-data libkf5completion5 libkf5config-bin libkf5config-data
```

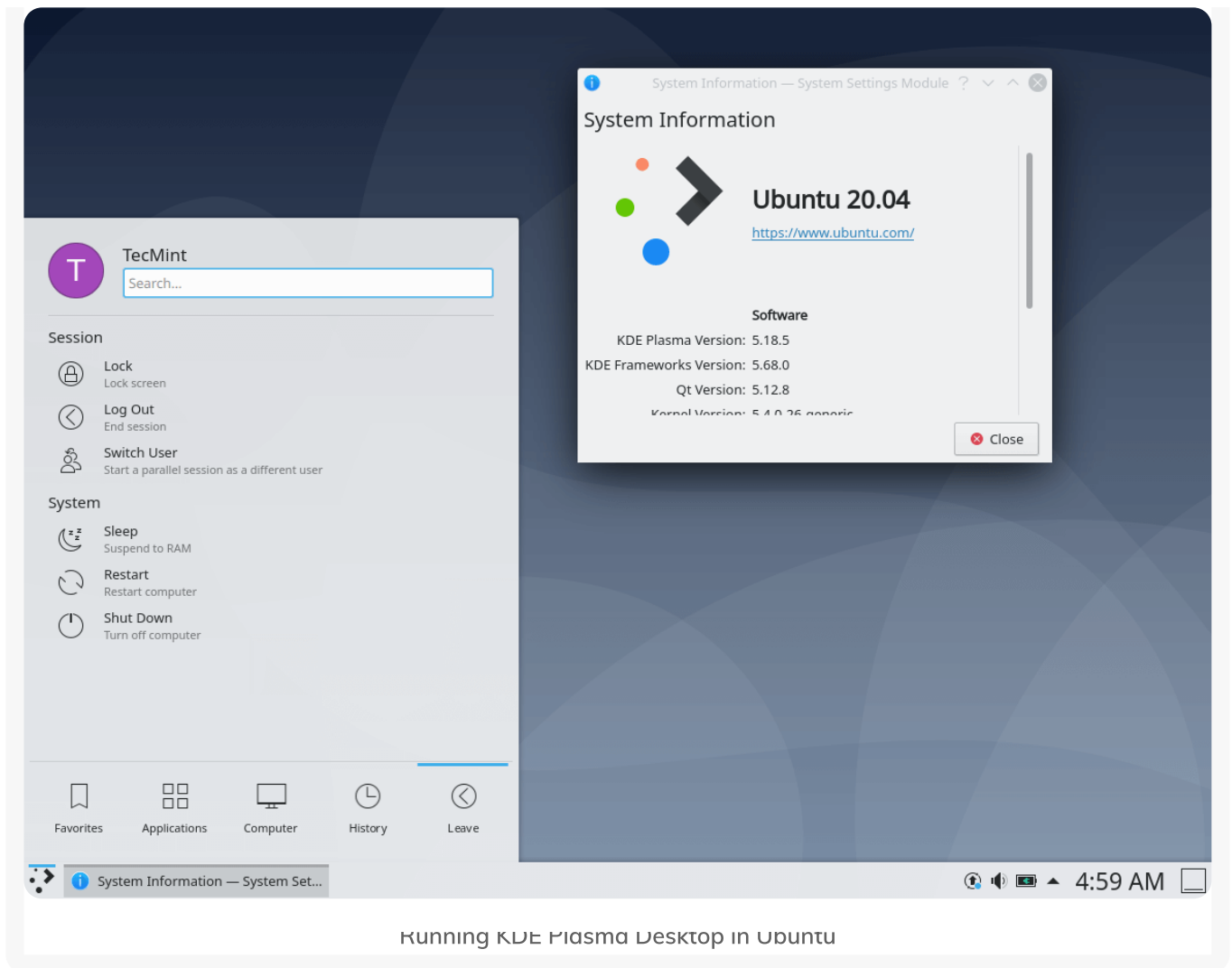
Install KDE Plasma Desktop in Ubuntu 20.04

Please note during installation, it will ask you to configure the **sddm** login manager, click OK, and select the '**sddm**' login manager as default.



Once the installation process is completed, make sure to restart your system and select **Plasma Desktop** and enter the password to login to the **KDE Plasma** desktop environment.

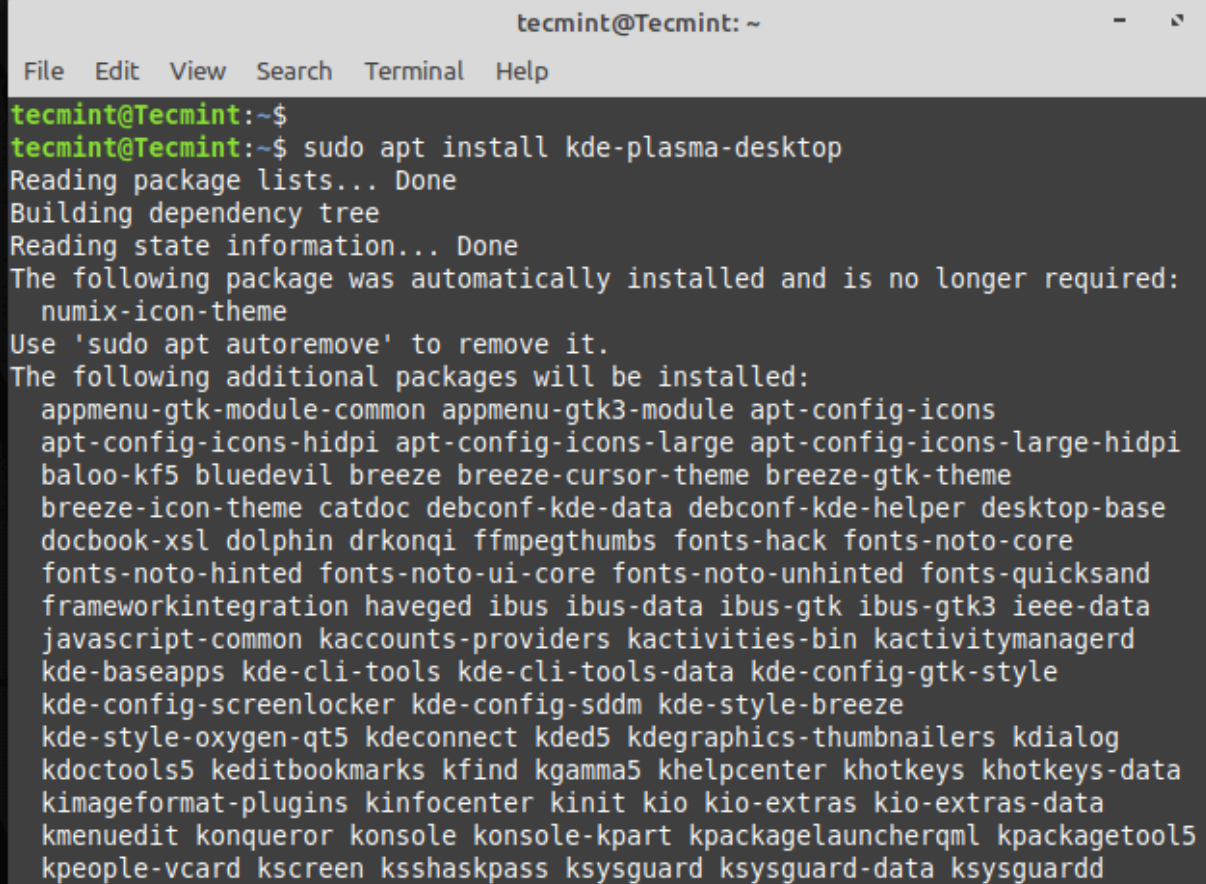




Install KDE Plasma On Linux Mint 20

The **KDE Plasma** desktop packages are already in the official repository of Linux Mint and you can install them using the following commands.

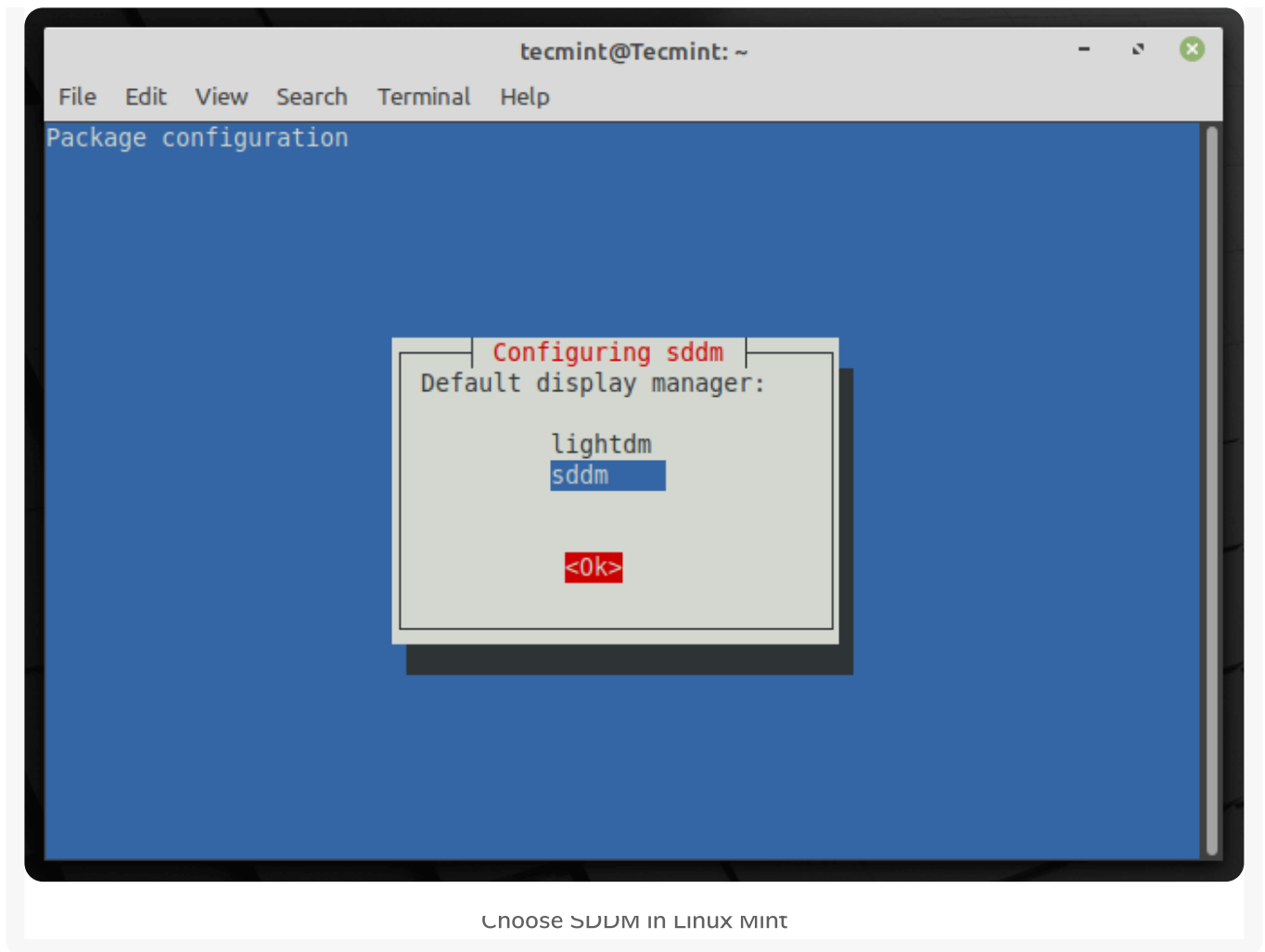
```
$ sudo apt update  
$ sudo apt install kde-plasma-desktop
```



```
tecmint@Tecmint: ~  
File Edit View Search Terminal Help  
tecmint@Tecmint:~$  
tecmint@Tecmint:~$ sudo apt install kde-plasma-desktop  
Reading package lists... Done  
Building dependency tree  
Reading state information... Done  
The following package was automatically installed and is no longer required:  
  numix-icon-theme  
Use 'sudo apt autoremove' to remove it.  
The following additional packages will be installed:  
  appmenu-gtk-module-common appmenu-gtk3-module apt-config-icons  
  apt-config-icons-hidpi apt-config-icons-large apt-config-icons-large-hidpi  
  baloo-kf5 bluedevil breeze breeze-cursor-theme breeze-gtk-theme  
  breeze-icon-theme catdoc debconf-kde-data debconf-kde-helper desktop-base  
  docbook-xsl dolphin drkonqi ffmpegthumbs fonts-hack fonts-noto-core  
  fonts-noto-hinted fonts-noto-ui-core fonts-noto-unhinted fonts-quicksand  
  frameworkintegration haveged ibus ibus-data ibus-gtk ibus-gtk3 ieee-data  
  javascript-common kaccounts-providers kactivities-bin kactivitymanagerd  
  kde-baseapps kde-cli-tools kde-cli-tools-data kde-config-gtk-style  
  kde-config-screenlocker kde-config-sddm kde-style-breeze  
  kde-style-oxygen-qt5 kdeconnect kded5 kdegraphics-thumbnailers kdialog  
  kdoctools5 keditbookmarks kfind kgamma5 khelpcenter khotkeys khotkeys-data  
  kimageformat-plugins kinfocenter kinit kio kio-extras kio-extras-data  
  kmenuedit konqueror konsole konsole-kpart kpackagelauncherqml kpackagetool5  
  kpeople-vcard kscreen ksshaskpass ksysguard ksysguard-data ksysguardd
```

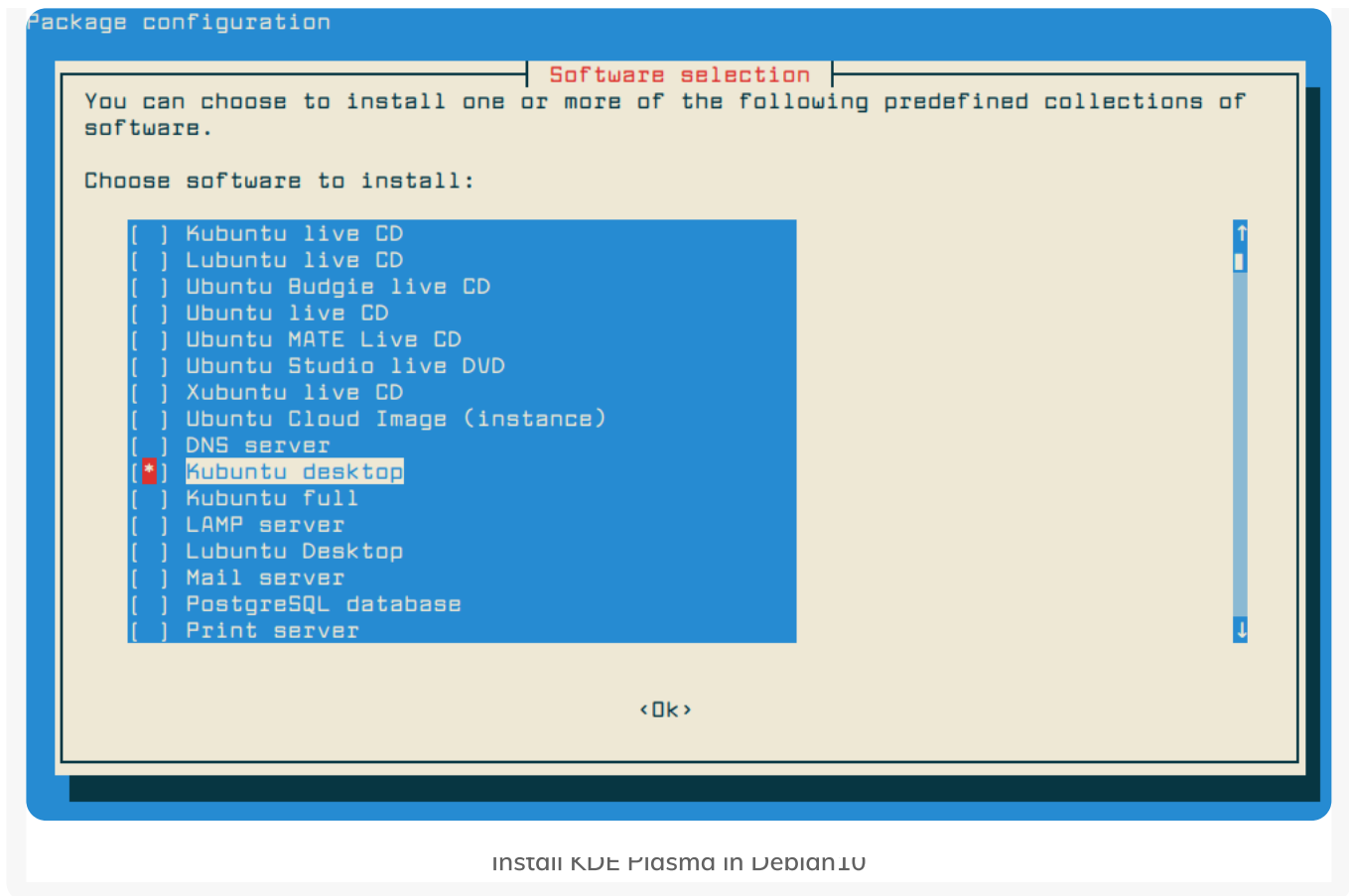
Install KDE Plasma Desktop in Linux Mint

Choose **sddm** login manager.



Install KDE Plasma on Debian 11/10

```
$ sudo apt install tasksel
$ sudo tasksel install kde-desktop
OR
$ sudo tasksel
```

Install KDE Plasma On OpenSUSE

For **OpenSUSE**, the latest version of KDE Plasma is available from the default repository for your system and you can install it using the [zypper command](#) as root.

```
$ sudo zypper in -t pattern kde kde_plasma
```

Install KDE Plasma On Fedora 34

For **Fedora** systems, new KDE plasma updates are available from the default repositories, make sure to keep your Fedora installation up-to-date, in order to install the most recent version of KDE Plasma using the following [dnf commands](#).

```
$ sudo dnf update
$ sudo dnf install @kde-desktop
```

Install KDE Plasma On RHEL/CentOS and Rocky Linux/AlmaLinux

```
# yum groupinstall "KDE Plasma Workspaces"
```

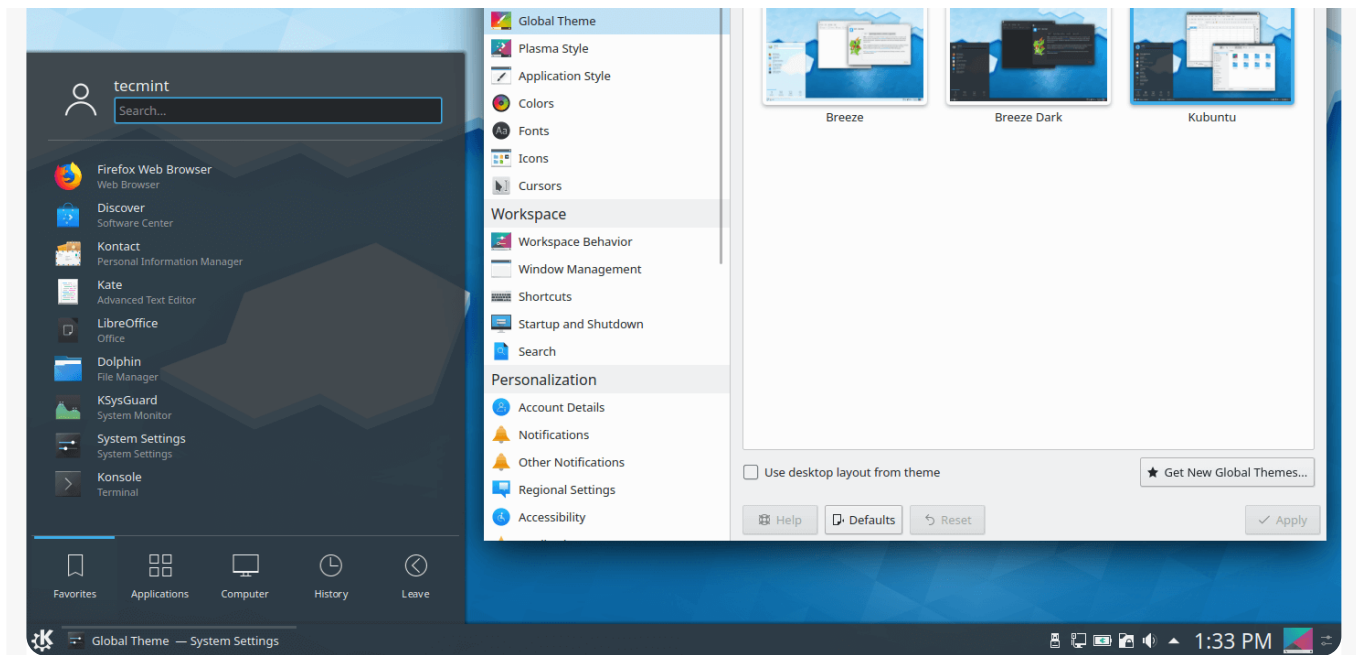
For **Arch Linux**, packages are available to download from the official extra repository, activate it, and enjoy it.

KDE Plasma 5.22 Screenshot Tour

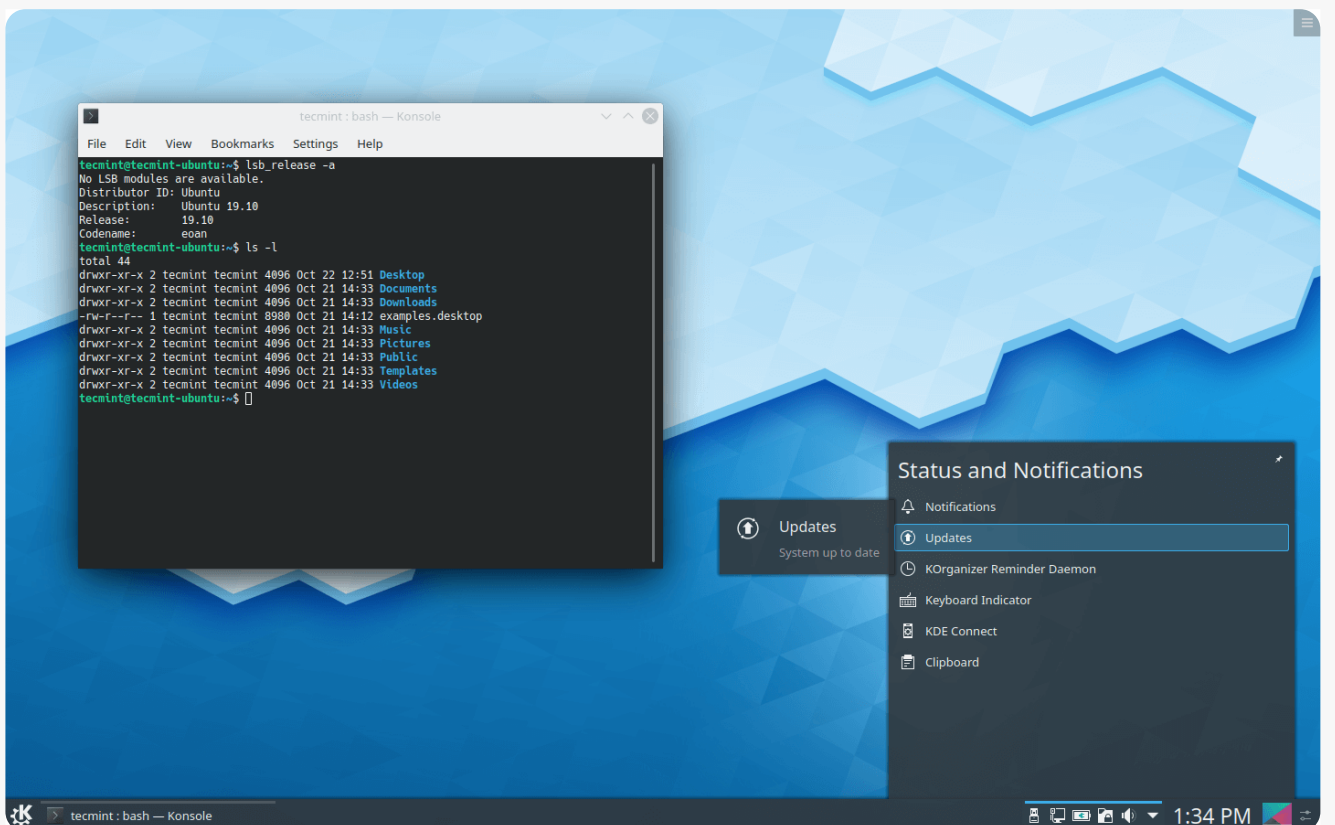


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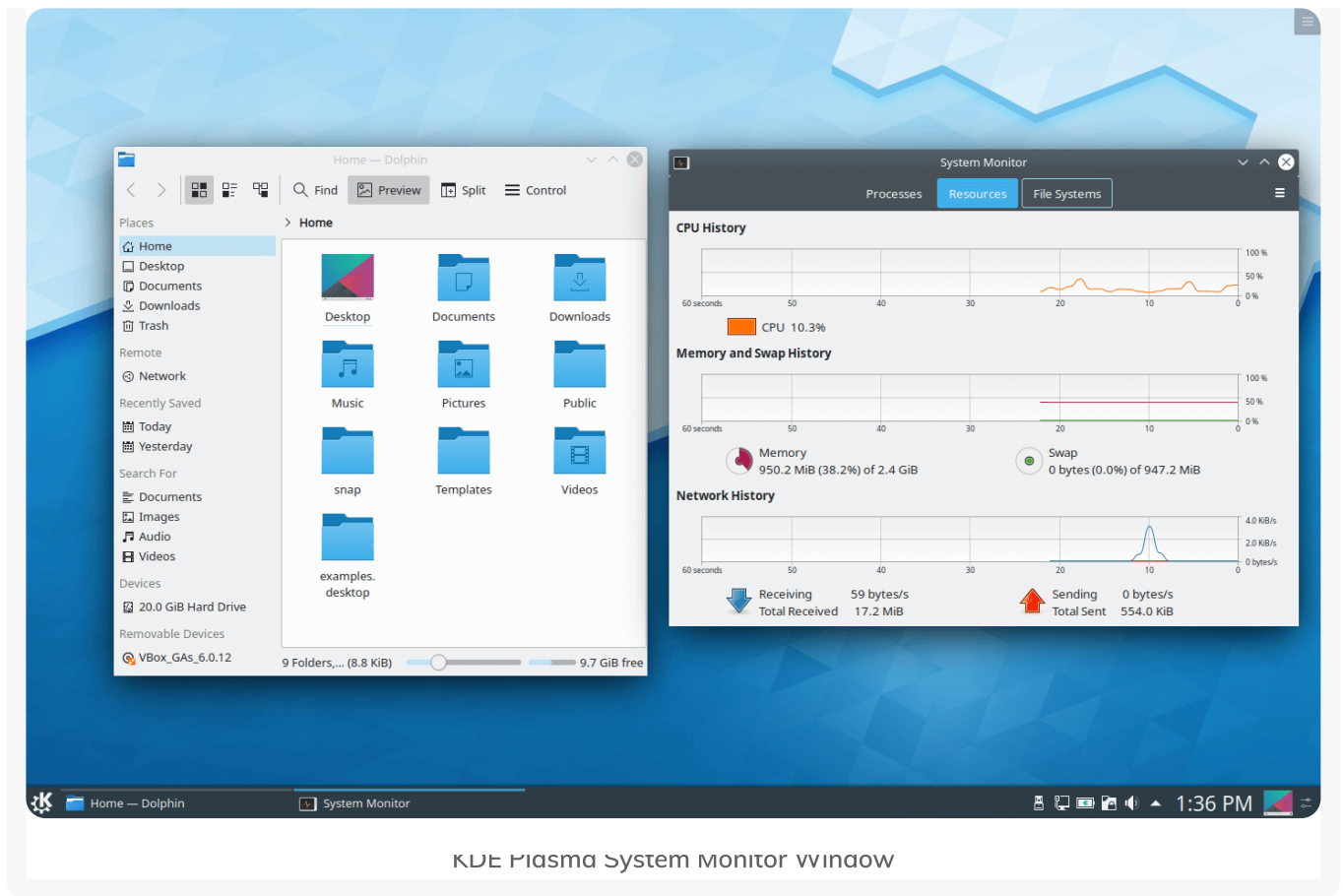
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KDE Plasma Notifications window



KDE Plasma System Monitor window

I hope that everything has worked fine, you can now enjoy **KDE Plasma** on your desktop.

In case of any queries or additional information you want to provide to us, you can use the comment section below to give us feedback. Have you tested KDE Plasma 5 on your Linux system? How did you find it?. Please post your thoughts about the KDE desktop using our comment section below.

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