Following our conversation last mweek, please find enclosed the questions for the BBC WebWise interview:

When and how did you learn to use the internet?

I was doing my social-service (the prize you get for being a conscientious objector) in Norway 1993-1994, at an Arts Centre near Oslo, basically employed to update their analogue tapes of experimental 60's and 70's music to a (more accessible) music-database...when I had the idea together with another guy to make the first ever full-on exhibit of arts on electronic medias in Norway (titled Electra, it turned out to be the first ever 2 month long exhibition of electronic installations EVER, with all its infancy-problems!). This meant looking into an environment a lot of people knew little about at the time - it was really only in university circles, experimental nerd-communities, and ultra hip art- and music-circles that internet was being used. It was a complete revelation, because there was an incredible amount of energy and enthusiasm for this medium around; people worked day and night on experimental stuff, eating badly and with no sleep - a little like I imagine it must have been in the world of music in the 60's...no rules, and constantly pushing boundaries...

Did you find it easy?

well at first it was very project related - and the stuff I came into contact with was not run of the mill stuff - fractal-based graphics, rudimentary virtual-reality stuff music projects with simultaneous concerts around the world - all of it more or less pre-broadband too.

What would you say your main actiivies are online? e.gcollecting email etc

yeah, research for my work, and keeping in touch with people through emails mostly. I'm not an ebay freak or even really a big netshopper; a few books and cd's, some downloads, software, travel-bookings, banking etc...

Do you ever use the internet for work?

all the time - I thought it would save time and money on phone-bills - but in the end I find it is more like an added thing... my family thinks I spend way too much time in front of my computer. They are right of course.

Did you have any input into the A-Ha website?

Yeah, I guess i do. I suggested the first designer and worked closely with him on design and content; We made the first ever full-length Flash music-video back in 2000...(beat Madonna by a week). I also gave personal input (as the only one in the band) by writing diaries and doing photo travelogues. On the new site we use

a webdesigner called Frode Lamøy, who I met a couple of years ago as
he became the drummer in my band for my solo record. He also did my website
www.magne-f.net (a little neglected of late since the new a-ha site..)
I wanted an original and creative site using something resembling more the
topography of the net and hypertext in general - not a pure info site.
and we filled it with all kinds of junk - it was a lot of fun for us, but hard work for
the people wanting to keep up with the site as it developed
Frode is a really talented guy and when we were doing a new a-ha site I
suggested he do it.

do you use the internet for shopping and travel?

see above

If you had a friend logging on for the first time, which site would you suggest they visit?

Oh, there's just too many - depends on interest - if she/he was interested in art I
would recommend my UK gallery www.paulstolper.com obviously
 (I divide my time between art and music...kinda in that order)

What would you say is your favourite website?

google is defintely the one I go to the most...but favourite - hm, I'd have to go for;
http://www.funthingies.com/quotes.php?QuoteFile=groucho-marx
It's the only site I couldn't live without.

You've been out of the limelight in the Uk for a while, what di you do during your break?

A little of this a little of that; the social service I mentioned (1 year and a half,
phew), I made film-scores for 3 feature-films, held roughly 30 solo-exhibitions
and participated in group-exhibitons all over (Scandinavia mostly, but even as far
as Hongkong, Beijing and Shanghai where I spent a few months as guest
teacher at the College of Fine Arts in 1996), we had our second son Filip, worked
with private and public art-comissions, released 4 artist-books, made a solo
record (past perfect future tense, 2005!) and held subsequent concerts and
exhibitions simultaneously, the last of which also contains my own poetry
(Payne's Gray, Hatje Cantz Verlag)...as I said - this and that. My Cv is pretty
much littered with art and music-related stuff... I could bore you listing them all for
hours.

How is A-Ha different now from when you first formed?

Well, these days it's more like 3 solo artists working under the same umbrella -
each one in charge of his own material
It has its advantages and its disadvantages, but bear in mind we ALL did loads of
work outside of a-ha ever since we split in 94, so it's only natural we have

become 'individualised'.

What can we expect from A-Ha in the future?

Who knows - part of the charm for us is that each album kinda feels like a swansong. Having said that, this record - and not least regaining a position in (what used to be home) UK gave us a lot of energy. We are looser too, and will probably do much more ad hoc stuff, like spontaneous gigs and impromptu acoustic renditions of songs.

We enjoy the fact that our audience everywhere seems happy for us to introduce new material - this is something quite special for us; most bands from the 80's that resurface complain that people only want their old stuff, or in the worst cases just go around only performing the old stuff as pure nostalgia.
We'd really hate that feeling, so we all feel privileged that people are still curious of what a-ha is not...not only what we once were. I reckon you can expect more from all of us - together and separately, but I won't twist any arms...I still feel we have not made our best album, and time is running out...tick tock...gee, is it this late already?!

We always ask that the celeb ask a web related question for our mascot Bruce- such as what is a podcast? What are cookies? That kind of thing.

My question; can you explain in easy terms how to program html?
(hihi)